



WCMA News

Volume 18, No. 2, August 2006

President's Message

“If you have not yet seen the movie [An Inconvenient Truth](#), you should.” That was the advice I got from two different people whose political perspectives are, I suspect, very different. They are both people whose opinions I value -- even if I don't always agree with them. So, following that advice last weekend I convinced my wife Susan and our kids, Maxwell (13) and Anne (9) to go with me to the local art cinema and see this movie. We all felt it was time well spent.

The movie gave me a different perspective on a question/comment made by a city council member last week during the council's discussion of our waterfront redevelopment activities. The question/comment was this: “What would happen to this area [the waterfront adjacent to downtown] if the sea level rises by 20 feet?” Because it was more comment than question, I did not volunteer an answer at the time. However, this week I checked our GIS maps. Fortunately, most of downtown Bellingham sits on a bluff above the waterfront. However, if the Sound does rise by 20 feet, most of the waterfront redevelopment area -- within which the city and Port of Bellingham are planning to spend over \$300 million for new infrastructure -- would be under water. Even more sobering is the thought that if rising seas consume that part of our waterfront and destroy our \$300 million investment, that will likely be the least of our worries (you may have to see the movie to understand what I mean).

Some of you may scoff that this is just silly doomsday speculation. Perhaps. But using this “bully pulpit” to spread doomsday speculation is not my intent. My intent is to influence you to go see the movie and then, being the calm, rational and thoughtful leaders that we all are, discuss what, if anything we should do.

Here are some possibilities:

- \$300 million investment deserves due diligence. So, among others things, I have asked staff to do a literature review and find out if there is a credible probability analysis on the likelihood of sea level rising that would change our investment plans.
- Demonstrating bold leadership, our Mayor Mark Asmundson proposed and the city council unanimously approved, purchasing 100% of the city's electric power from “green” sources through the Puget Sound Energy program.
- In a less bold move I committed to riding my bike to work at least once a week (OK, so its only 3 miles, but I did it three times this week, and it felt great!).

- Our kids said that they would ride the bus to school this year (something they were loathe to do last year) instead of expecting to be chauffeured by mom and dad.
- I have attached an article describing some of the things our green neighbors to the South have done and here is a web link with some more possibilities:
<http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/whatyoucando/index.html>

I'm not ready to "tie up d' boat in Idaho", but I do think there is still some relevance to the slogan, "Think globally, act locally." I am looking forward to discussing this and many other issues with you soon. So, I'll see you in Semiahmoo!

Malcolm Fleming, WCMA President
 Chief Administrative Officer, City of Bellingham
malcolm@cob.org

Another Small Step for Earth

Sunday, July 30th, 2006 by RLR

From [The NY Times](#)

By **Nicholas D. Kristof**

The best argument for ignoring global warming has been that there are better ways to spend money: instead of devoting billions to curb carbon emissions and reduce the impact on sea levels in 2050, we could spend the resources developing a vaccine for AIDS or providing universal health care to all Americans.

In essence, the dangers of climate change appeared distant and uncertain, while the costs of curbing greenhouse gases were immediate and appeared substantial.

But all across the country, states and local governments have chipped away at those arguments for delay -- actually, pretty much demolished them -- by showing that there are myriad small steps we can take that significantly curb carbon emissions and that are easily affordable.

A leader of that effort has been Portland, Oregon, earnestly green even when it is wintry gray. In 1993, the city adopted a plan to curb greenhouse gases, and it is bearing remarkable fruit: local greenhouse gas emissions are back down to 1990 levels, while nationally they are up 16 percent. And instead of damaging its economy, Portland has boomed.

This month Portland took an important additional step, by adopting a renewable-fuel standard. Beginning July 1, 2007, all diesel sold for vehicles in the city will have to be at least a 5 percent biodiesel blend. And all gasoline will have to contain at least 10 percent ethanol. This measure is not a magic bullet, but it has a negligible cost and is one more example of the creative thinking at local levels that is curbing greenhouse gases without breaking the bank.

Portland joins several states -- Minnesota, Washington, Hawaii, Montana, Iowa, Louisiana and

Missouri -- that have passed similar laws.

“We aren’t confused into thinking that we can change the world,” said Randy Leonard, the city commissioner who sponsored the ordinance, which passed unanimously. “We’re just hoping that we can establish a template to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and promote economic development and reduce greenhouse gases. Then we can send a message.

“We get that we’re an asterisk to the larger issue of oil dependence and global warming,” he added. “But we also think that there isn’t an energy policy in the state or nation that makes sense, and here there is something we can do that does make sense.”

The 5 percent biodiesel works in all diesel vehicles, without any loss of acceleration. The bio-component sometimes comes from discarded restaurant grease; vehicles using it smell faintly of French fries.

The benefit of the 10 percent ethanol requirement is less clear because U.S. ethanol sometimes takes nearly as much petroleum to make (in fuel to run tractors to harvest corn, for example) as it saves. But increasingly we’ll probably be making ethanol from switch grass or sugar cane in ways that are more likely to save petroleum.

Portland customers may end up paying slightly more for gas and diesel because of the new regulation, but city planners say that any increase will be minimal -- perhaps a penny or two per gallon.

“This will reduce total emissions by 1 percent,” said Michael Armstrong, a city environmental expert. “It sounds tiny, but if you think that the Kyoto standard is a 7 percent reduction [below 1990 levels], and this one simple move would be 1 percent, then it seems more doable.”

The city is also seeking to ensure that all city government units use power from wind or solar sources by 2010. Portland has changed streetlamps to use low-power bulbs, built bicycle trails to encourage commuting on bike or on foot, and greatly expanded mass transit.

It’s true that the risks of climate change are uncertain, but when encountering other kinds of dangers -- like Iran apparently trying to develop nuclear weapons -- we don’t shrug and say there’s no point in doing anything because of the uncertainties. The risks of warming are potentially enormous -- imagine much of the east coast under water -- and our obligation to protect our planet is not just technical but also moral.

So it’s time to abandon the old self-defeating notion that curbing greenhouse gases is too costly to be effective. Portland and other localities are showing that there’s plenty we can do inexpensively, at least in the early phases -- if we don’t mind rush-hour traffic smelling of French fries.

I almost didn’t write this column, because with the Middle East in flames it’s obvious that climate change is not the most important topic of the day. But it could be the most important issue of this century.

From the Vice President:

I am looking forward to serving as the WCMA president during 2007. At the 2006 conference in Semiahmoo, I hope to set forth the agenda for the association during the 2007 year. I hope to work with the membership to provide good information and training at the regional conference at Skamania in late March and a fun and interesting summer conference in Walla Walla. Aside from the conferences, the focus will be on membership, scholarship, next generation support, international reports, becoming credentialed city managers, and range riders. It should be an interesting year with plenty of opportunities for networking and sharing.

Indeed the high point of the 2007 WCMA year will be the conference in Walla Walla next August which should be on everyone's calendar. It may be hot, dusty and dry; but we will offer great wine tasting, tours of a Great American Main Street, lots of local history, and great restaurants. The Marcus Whitman Hotel will be the conference center and it should be a great time. At least two city managers may be willing share information on where the best fly fishing in Eastern Washington can be found.

See you at Semiahmoo.

Duane Cole, Vice President, WCMA
City Manager, Walla Walla
dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us

Need Advice or Help?

What to do? Of course! Call a **Range Rider!!** There are four of them! Lots and lots of experience to draw from. They are:

Roger Crum
3406 S Grand Blvd., Apt. 312
Spokane, WA 99203
Phone: (509) 363-0034
E-mail: rdcrum@comcast.net

Al Locke
PO Box 13
Allyn, WA 98524-0013
Phone: (360) 427-4271
*E-mail: aljeanyne@earthlink.net

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

L. Joe Miller
PO Box 392
Medina, WA 98039
Phone: (425) 454-9793
E-mail: leonjoe724@msn.com

Reminders:

This would be a good time to check up on yourself. Please take a look at your listing on the WCMA roster. And if it's not current or correct, please send what it *should* say, and immediately let us know what that might be. We try to keep the roster current, but we do find lapses, both in members letting us know of changes, and in getting things we're given up to date.

Go to the WCMA website at <http://wccma.org>. Click on "Membership", and then click on "Directory". Put in your last name, click on the search button, and take a look. If it's okay, please let us know. If it needs changing, let us know that, too, and what it should be changed to say. Send the results to either Donita Knutson at dknutson@mrsc.org, or to me at rbartels@mrsc.org. I know some of you have sent me required changes, but I've not furnished them all to Donita. I promise to do so with what you send now. Thanks!

Ron Bartels, editor
WCMA News

And now, the news:

WCMA Election Results:

President	Duane Cole, city manager, Walla Walla
Vice-President	Andy Neiditz, city manager, Lakewood
Board of Directors	Charlie Bush, intergovernmental management analyst, Bellevue Pat McDonnell, city manager, Vancouver

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

David Timmons, city manager, **Port Townsend**, reports that he has been appointed to ICMA's international committee. It's a three-year term starting this year in San Antonio. They closed out our project in Croatia and got great feedback on our efforts and final product. They developed a reuse concept plan for a former military base, using Fort Worden, here in **Port Townsend**, as a model. The city of Umag has pledged to follow through with the plan and to continue the twinning program with **Port Townsend**. On a personal note, Dave says he was busy walking daughter number two down the aisle over Memorial Day weekend. Because of all of this he was not able attend the spring conference in OR and he'll miss seeing everyone in Semiahmoo since my folks will be celebrating their sixtieth anniversary at the same time in Michigan, and they will be there with them. He will be attending the ICMA Conference in San Antonio and hopes to catch up with all of you there.

Bill Elliott, city manager, **Sequim**, sent the following advice to share:

Native American Wisdom vs. Modern Management Practices

Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.

However, in management today we often try other strategies with dead horses, including:

1. Buying a more expensive whip.
2. Replacing the riders.
3. Saying things like; “This should work because it’s the way we have always ridden this horse”.
4. Appointing a leadership committee to study the horse.
5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride their dead horses.
6. Lowering the standards to ride dead horses.
7. Appointing a Tiger Team to revive the dead horse.
8. Conducting training sessions to increase our riding abilities.
9. Hiring a motivational specialist to raise the horse’s self-esteem.
10. Redefining the standard, declaring that “This horse is not dead”.
11. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
12. Harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed.
13. Declaring that “No horse is too dead to beat”.
14. Reclassifying the dead horse as “living impaired”.
15. Providing additional funding to increase the horse’s performance.
16. Spending millions to redesign the saddle.
17. Purchasing a product to make dead horses run faster.
18. Declaring that the horse is “better, faster and cheaper” dead.
19. Forming a quality circle to find uses for dead horses.
20. Revisiting the performance requirements for dead horses.
21. Trying to pass off the flies and circling buzzards as windfalls.
22. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.
23. Threatening the horse with termination.

Region 2, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific & Thurston Counties
Mike McCarty, Assistant Director, Operations and Services, AWC
mikem@awcnet.org

From **Centralia** city manager J. D. Fouts provides the following:

As part of **Centralia's** 25th Summerfest Celebration, 48 new United States citizens took their oath during a naturalization ceremony at Borst Park. **Centralia** was the only Washington city other than **Seattle** to host such an event this year. The ceremony was part of a day-long celebration that included a pancake breakfast, fishing derby for kids, fun run, games for kids, BBQ, free tours of the historic Borst Home and One Room Schoolhouse, a parade, destruction derby and a free fireworks display.

The 97th Annual Southwest Washington Fair runs from August 15-20. For more information, please call 736-6072.

Music in the Park continues to be a popular event. The community is invited to five free Friday night concerts in Washington Park, located in historic downtown **Centralia**.

The **Centralia** Antique & Art Fest was held July 22-23 and included free workshops and demonstrations, sidewalk sales, an appraisal fair and free trolley rides of historic **Centralia**, narrated by local historians.

The **Lewis County** Quarter Milers Hub City Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in downtown **Centralia**. This year's event will include a "Grand Prix" go-kart race on August 18-19-20 around the **Centralia** College campus. For more information, please contact the **Centralia-Chehalis** Chamber of Commerce at 748-8885 or visit www.NWGolfCup.com

Centralia hosted the Senior Babe Ruth State Tournament on July 13-16 at Wheeler Field.

Centralia hosted thousands of riders during the **Seattle**-to-Portland Bicycle Ride on July 15th. **Centralia** College served as the primary location for overnight visitors.

The **Centralia** police department will be conducting a Childhood Identification Project.

City officials continue to meet with WSDOT officials, local officials, local businesses and interested citizens regarding the I-5 widening project. Alternatives for the location of on and off ramps are being reviewed and evaluated.

The **Centralia** wastewater treatment plan was selected by the Washington State Department of Ecology to receive the "Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plan" award.

Merlin MacReynold, new city manager, **Chehalis**, offers the following:

I am happy to report that I am the new city manager in the historic Rose City of **Chehalis** for about 3 months now. I have the good fortune to follow the long time manager Dave Campbell who was here for 17 years.

We have a lot going on in our little corner of the state. We are working with WDOT to construct roundabouts on Chamber Way, which crosses I-5. This is a major transportation project and has had a plethora of issues revolving around it. We will be going out to bid the beginning of next year and it will be constructed next spring and summer.

The completion of our new wastewater treatment plant is schedule for early 2008. So far we are about 8 months ahead of schedule and it looks like we will be opening it next summer. Staff has done a great job working with the engineers and contractor to make this a success for our city.

City facilities is another of our pressing issues here and we currently are exploring moving city hall, community development, facilities, police and our municipal court into one building that we have purchased from the county. Additionally, we will be building a new library, too.

Additionally, we are considering a significant annexation to our south that would increase our size by a little more than a third. We are currently in negotiations with the fire district that is providing services there and has been very outspoken about their opposition to it. We will be jointly hiring a consultant to analyze how best to provide fire service in that area. We plan to annex the area no later than 2008.

Last, but not least, we are also reorganizing the organizational structure of the city. We will be bringing a proposal to the council in September and it will be effective in January at the start of the new budget year.

That's it for now. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the WCMA conference this month.

From **Lacey**, city manager Greg Cuoio reports that after nearly two years of intense wrangling over three public facilities district project proposals, **Lacey - Olympia - Tumwater** - and **Thurston County** finally agreed that PFD funds would go towards a 100-acre regional athletic complex and a new hands-on children's museum. Although relationships were bruised along the way, the greater **Thurston County** community will benefit from these two quality regional projects. Under the agreement, **Lacey** will receive nearly \$30 million for the athletic facility, while approximately \$12 million will go to the **Olympia**-backed children's museum. Unfortunately, plans for a \$20 million community and aquatics facility fell through when **Tumwater** could not secure the required 33% match.

Development in **Lacey** continues at an historic pace. Year-to-date, nearly 800 single family permits have been issued. Additionally, over 500,000 square feet of new retail/commercial has opened, including a new Costco, Home Depot, Best Buy, Office Max, and Sportsmen's Warehouse. Cabela's also is knocking on the door, and, a new Lowe's is being proposed. These high revenue-generating retailers are a welcome sight to a city that historically has been underserved.

On the down side, the issue of obtaining new water rights continues to be challenging as well as distressing. **Lacey** has found it necessary to implement a quasi water moratorium in its 16 square mile unincorporated urban growth area as we are unable to guarantee water availability. This situation has the potential of being a thorny problem for another 5-10 years.

Randy Lewis, city administrator, **Westport**, sends the following:

The good news is that **Westport** has been discovered! After a few years of lagging behind some of the other coastal areas in development, we are catching up quickly. The local economy has rebounded nicely, and the budget is beginning to show that as well. This has allowed us to cut into some of the backlog of delayed purchases and upgrades. We will be purchasing a new tractor/mower, and are just completing the installation of a vehicle exhaust system in our fire department. The fire department has also added a new engine, which was purchased by a voter approved bond. We will be completing almost a million dollars in upgrades at our sewer plant to improve efficiencies. The city is also making plans for a new city hall facility that will house the police and court departments as well. A new library is almost completed, using primarily private and corporate donations. A group of citizens is also raising funds for a first class skateboard facility. The city is also now the summer home of the Hawaiian Chieftain, Washington's second tall ship.

The bad news is that the **Westport** has been discovered! Currently sitting at city hall are applications for two long plats totaling 91 single family residences and approximately 200 condominium units, a new hotel and 7,000 square feet of retail space. None of that includes the Links at Half Moon Bay destination resort which includes an 18 hole golf course, 2 – 200 room hotels, and 200 condos. This project was approved by the city in 2004 and is still working its way through the legal system. Currently and appeal of the shorelines substantial development permit is pending before the state court of appeals. The city is accomplishing all this while being short handed. We are currently advertising for a public works director.

Last but not least, after a slow start, the fishing is picking up. The best news is that the average size is up this year, so it will only get better in August and September.

Shelly Badger, **Yelm** city administrator reports:

- ★ In May, the **Yelm** city council approved the construction of a new public safety building, to be built in 2007. The new building will cost quite a bit more than what the city spent

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- ★ on the existing police department building -- as Yelm purchased the old building from the city of **Lacey** for one dollar back in 1986. Building planners are set to obtain the \$4.3 million for the new building from a general obligation bond fund -- leaving **Yelm** taxpayers with no additional costs. The new public safety building will be significantly larger than the existing station, which has struggled to keep up with the rapid growth in the area. The new building will span approximately 11,500 square feet -- compared to the current facility, which is about 3,500 square feet. The new facility which will be located at the corner of 2nd Street and McKenzie Avenue, will house the police department and also the **Yelm** municipal court.
- ★ And, speaking of the “**Yelm** municipal court,”...they are pleased to announce that they began accepting passport applications on August 1st, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports at the **Yelm** municipal court office, located at 105 **Yelm** Avenue West. Call 360-458-3242 for specific hours of operation. Additional information can be obtained from the city of **Yelm** website, www.ci.yelm.wa.us.
- ★ As mentioned in the last newsletter, **Yelm** is experiencing great population growth, making it necessary to hire more staff. In July, a new police officer was added to the **Yelm** force, bringing it to 12 officers. The **Yelm** community development department has also brought on two new staffers in August, an assistant planner and a civil inspector.
- ★ **Yelm's** taxable retail sales continue to increase -- experiencing a 30.5% increase change between first quarters in 2005 and 2006. According to city administrator Shelly Badger, “the city of **Yelm** has a population of about 4,500, but we draw from a rural area which has in excess of 30,000 people. They continue to be a commercial hub for a pretty large rural area that is growing.”

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas

lhalverson@ci.camamas.wa.us

Lloyd returns from his current time away next week. Please look at the information supplied by our ICMA vice-president, Bob Jean, city manager of **University Place**, under Region 15, Pierce County, to see what Lloyd has been up to. It involves overseas travel.

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties

Frank Sweet, City Supervisor, City of Selah

fsweet@elltel.net

From **Grandview**, city administrator Scott Staples reports that the mayor, city council, city administrator, and management staff recently completed a very productive planning retreat with

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consultant Lyle Sumek. As a result, seventeen (17) priorities were identified for the 2006/2007 time frame. They include swimming pool/aquatics direction and funding, school resource officer funding, maintenance consolidation study, comprehensive code review project, establishment of community center, rental property registration and annual inspection program development, municipal court evaluation and operational options, five year financial plan, and development of a leadership **Grandview** program. Part of the information reviewed by council to establish the priorities was a summary of input to the new city administrator from a series of orientation meetings held with individuals and groups.

The managers/administrators of **Prosser**, **Mabton**, **Sunnyside**, and **Grandview** met to determine potential areas for joint cost savings/cooperation including recreation programming, civil service testing, and fuel bids.

The city is in the beginning stages of developing an action plan to revitalize the central business district. Potential major partners include the University of Washington, **Yakima** Valley Community College, and local chamber of commerce.

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

City Administrator Art Tackett reports the city of **Connell** has had a very busy summer with no let up in sight. Construction on a \$160,000,000 state prison started in July. Because of this the has been inundated with potential developers all doing their "due diligence" regarding the potential for housing construction for new employees. The city has also been actively selling commercial property that it had previously purchased from the Department of Natural Resources. So far there have been three sales with one pending so things are looking up in that arena also.

The city has just finished a SEPA review for a large development on the east end of town which over the next few years will add an RV Resort and a golf course to the community. This development should address some of the city's housing future needs. Other than that it has been a very quiet summer. Look forward to seeing all of you at the conference.

In **Kennewick**, city manager Bob Hammond reports they're heavy into development of their draft 07/08 biennial budget. Their financial stability continues to depend heavily upon growth-related revenues in order to cover inflation on the expense side. Commercial retail continues to be strong, highlighted by a new Toyota dealership under construction and also a major expansion to Columbia Center Mall, which continues to be the highest producing retail center in

southeastern Washington. Their high technology-light industrial businesses also continue to grow and **Kennewick** continues to provide support for key regional projects like the four year university in north **Richland** and also the expansion of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, which is currently the region's largest employer at over 3,000 scientists, researchers and support staff.

They'd like to get out of the northwest and national spotlight on a couple of issues. One involves the donations for deals in our district court where we continue to expect federal indictments of those involved including an ex-employee. We are looking forward to the day (after indictments are handed down) when we can openly discuss the donations for deals with our citizens. The other involves an illegal immigration reform act ordinance (identical to that passed in Hazleton, PA) that one council member continues to push as an agenda. We believe that time will lead to clarifying that this is just one councilmember's agenda but are obviously watching closely for precursors and early warning signs for conflicts that might surface in the community due to racial tension. Bob requests that if any before him have experienced this or a similar issue, he'd certainly welcome advice on how to proceed.

Voters in the city of **Richland** passed a \$17.25 million bond issue earlier this year to renovate the municipal library, reports city manager John Darrington. The **Richland** public library's collection, patrons and technology have significantly outgrown the current building, which was constructed in 1970. A committee of council, staff and citizens is currently assessing architectural qualifications and looking into temporary housing for the collection while the building is renovated. A citizens' committee actively promoted the need for a renovated, enlarged facility for nearly three years, John notes. A project of shorter duration but massive impact will wrap up this fall. **Richland** is reconstructing a portion of its main north/south thoroughfare, the entrance into the core part of the city, which carries more than 30,000 cars a day. Thanks to an extensive public information effort about the project, complaints about the disruptions to traffic patterns have been minimal, said John. The information effort has funneled queries for project updates to the city's web site and a recorded telephone line, both available 24/7. Also available 24/7 is a new online service for contractors in the city of **Richland**. They can apply for and monitor building permits, schedule inspections and receive inspection results through BluePrince®, a web-based tracking system. The system streamlines many staff tasks, improving overall efficiency and productivity. **Richland** continues to accept telephone requested inspections, but gives preference to those using the web-based service. Service demands in other municipal areas continue to grow, said John, noting that new single-family housing starts remain high, and commercial construction is blossoming in all of **Richland's** key development areas.

Duane Cole, city manager, city of **Walla Walla** reports the highpoint of the summer was the visit by V.A. Secretary James Nicholson and his announcement that the V.A. facility will remain in **Walla Walla**. Since his July 7 visit, the local V.A. has been forming plans to develop a capital budget request for the 2008 federal budget. This will provide the city with the long-awaited amount to ask the federal government to fund in future years. Part of this effort will be

developing a strategy to save the pre-civil war houses. The community is encouraged by the suddenly fast action.

Staff has been busy working on fast-tracking a major arterial improvement to the east of the city. The bids were high, but the council wanted to move forward. The financing plan is a conglomeration of a number of different resources. Duane reports that he is confident it will

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work out and the city will be delaying projects for a year to complete this large project. The project by comparison probably seems small to the larger cities at only \$4.4 million but it is large for **Walla Walla**, particularly with the limited funds for streets.

Budget time is getting serious now as they enter August. The local economy continues to be fairly strong with construction continuing. They are carefully saving these one-time revenues and preparing for a more conservative future. Water supply is not a problem so far this summer and revenues are up! After a couple of years of drought, they can use the money for the many projects around the city.

The city of **West Richland** is experiencing rapid growth and has several large projects in the works to facilitate and encourage this growth. **West Richland** city administrator Mark Panther reports that the Keene Road corridor, which connects **West Richland** to **Richland**, has been completed using statewide transportation improvement program (STIP) funding. The city was recently awarded \$293,000 from a federal enhancement grant to complete entryway and beautification improvements along the Keene Road corridor.

Escalating home growth required construction of an additional waste water treatment plant. This 9 million dollar project will phase in a sewer interceptor and design and construction of a mirror image Biolac® waste water treatment plant beside the existing facility. The city of **West Richland** was one of only 46 waste water plants recognized and rewarded for perfect compliance with Department of Ecology discharge permits.

West Richland is experiencing a five percent population increase each year creating a challenge in balancing employee staff growth while maintaining city services. **West Richland's** transition from a bucolic bedroom community has been aided by a number of continuing commercial projects and construction. These projects will attract and develop a stable city sales tax base for the future

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

Colfax has undertaken a unique annexation that will double its land area. City administrator Emily Adams reports that the city recently annexed 1,128 acres. What is unusual about the

annexation is that the applicants sought to be annexed by the city in order to develop lots between 5 and 20 acres. Current **Whitman County** zoning restrictions would not allow this type of rural residential development. The city is retaining a consultant to help them develop guidelines for this type of zoning.

Pullman city supervisor John Sherman reports that everybody is gearing up for the start of the school year at WSU. One of the major undertakings for the fall will be the development of a

master plan for College Hill. Over the years, many homes that were previously owner occupied single family units have been converted to student rentals. WSU launched an effort to purchase and control selected properties that had deteriorated badly but the hill is simply too large for this approach to adequately address the issue. John reports that they will be engaging a planning consultant to help us in this controversial but needed process. Elsewhere in **Pullman** construction activity remains strong and the community continues to grow and prosper. The high CPI coupled with increases in retirement system rates will challenge their 2007 budget process.

Region 7, Adams, Grant, & Lincoln Counties
Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello
administrator@othellowashington.us

Othello is again enjoying summer festivals, having completed the Sun Faire over the July 4th weekend. The second weekend of August, (the 11th and 12th), we will have Fiesta Amistad which is a celebration of the diversity of our community. To round out the summer activities in **Othello**, in September is the **Adams County** fair and rodeo. The fair and rodeo will be held September 12th through the 16th.

As far as street projects, the city with a loan of \$650,000 from the public works trust fund, will completely reconstruct 5 blocks of Broadway Street which is a heavily used connector street that local farmers use to transport their product to the processing plants.

It is anticipated that next year in 2007 the city will construct approximately one half mile of Broadway on the north side of Main Street which will complete the Broadway Street project. It is hoped the city will receive funding from either state or federal sources.

The park and recreation district passed a \$2.6 million bond to construct a new swimming pool. Since the park and recreation district does not have staff they have contracted with the city to conduct the bid process and project management. The pool is scheduled to begin construction in October and will be completed in June of 2007. The new pool will be a Myrtha pool, which is kind of like a tilt up pool that is constructed in Italy. If anyone wishes to take a look at this new type of pool you can visit **Othello** and enjoy our community.

The city hall in **Othello** was built 9 years ago and would be considered the best of city halls in a city with a population of 7,000 or less. Even though city hall is relatively new, next year we are budgeting for a new HB/AC system (\$35,000) as the design of the current system was west side designed and is not adequate, particularly for the heat of the east side summers.

You are all invited to the **Othello** for its summer events, as well as the hunting and fishing. During the winter months we have cross county skiing and snowmobiling.

Region 8, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane & Stevens Counties
Lewis "Griff" Griffin, In transition
l-ygriffin@sisna.com

Even though Griff and **Liberty Lake** have parted company, there's still news. Griff called Arlene Fisher, finance and administration director of **Liberty Lake**, who was willing to produce the following:

City celebrates five-year anniversary. On August 31, 2006, the city of **Liberty Lake** will celebrate its five-year anniversary. Community leaders founded the city on the principles of efficient government and fiscal responsibility. Citizens wanted their tax dollars to stay in the community to work harder and smarter to provide needed services. Today, the mayor, council and staff will continue to meet these citizens' expectations.

Growing city. In March the annexation of River Crossing was finalized. In April the city council and staff walked door-to-door presenting the new city residents with "Welcome Packets." While some residents expressed concern, others were enthused about the prospect of being a part of a jurisdiction that would be more responsive to their needs. Jack Rojan, a resident for over 25 years said, "We'd just appreciate city officials responding to our concerns." The new addition increases the city's population by 450 residents. Current population is approximately 6500 residents.

City welcomes new businesses. The city continues to focus on strategic economic development directed towards increasing the city's retail sales tax base. This year alone, the city welcomed Huntwood Custom Cabinets, Home Depot, All Sport, Freedom R.V., George Gee Porsche, Itron Corporation, Sterling Savings Bank, as well as Western Peterbilt which will open a franchise late this fall.

Community center/municipal library. Plans to develop a community campus took a large step forward with the city's purchase of 6.4 acres for the project. A new library and community center will anchor a collection of buildings and open spaces designed to draw the community together. Master plan concepts were finalized with tremendous community input. This fall council, staff and community stakeholders will begin planning the programming elements for both facilities.

Liberty Lake municipal library honored at the June AWC conference in Spokane.

Liberty Lake can now add award-winning to the list of terms to describe the city's successful, emerging municipal library. The municipal library was one of seven categorical winners honored with a "Gold" award. The city's library was chosen for the Municipal Achiever of the Year award. "**Liberty Lake** was specifically selected for this top honor for their outstanding achievement in furthering community education and creating community cohesiveness", said Pam Carter, AWC President.

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Big box design standards. The city council took a bold step forward in July by passing standards requiring "Big Box's" - those more than 50,000 square feet, to look aesthetically pleasing and requiring them to have an exit strategy upon departure. "Our philosophy is: If you're going to come to **Liberty Lake**, you'll need to meet our standards and we'll be great partners with you," said Doug Smith, director of planning and community development.

Golf cart ordinance. If you want to bring out the community just say "golf".... and they will come. After much discussion and trepidation the city council adopted an ordinance regulating minors who use golf carts. In addition, the ordinance requires parents or legal guardians to accompany drivers between the ages of 12 to 15. Persons 16 and older must have a valid driver's license. The new law also prohibits negligent driving and requires lights for driving at night.

TIF & LIFT. Earlier this year, the city council unanimously approved the formation of a joint Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district with Fire District 1 and **Spokane County**. The TIF District covers approximately 1,300 acres and could generate an estimated 15 million in basic infrastructure improvements including roads, storm water systems, recreation enhancements, sewer and water lines. **Liberty Lake** was also one of three communities chosen to participate in a "demonstration" project implementing newly adopted state legislation intended to stimulate economic development through tax incentives. Under the program, known as LIFT, the city will receive up to \$1 million per year in state funding for public improvements.

Pedestrian bridge extension. Bikers and walkers using the pedestrian bridge will soon find it easier and safer to cross. Next spring WSDOT will build a pedestrian bridge over the freeway's eastbound onramp providing an easy path between the north and south sides of the city. The extension will cost approximately \$1 million and will be paid for with state and federal funds.

From **Spokane**, deputy mayor Jack Lynch sends this report:

Spokane is in a very exciting time of growth and redevelopment. Recent building permit activity is breaking records again this year after a record breaking 2005. We're a community on the move.

One significant example of that growth and redevelopment is Kendall Yards. It is an empty swath of just under 80 acres of land along the north bank of the Spokane River adjacent to our downtown. This will be one of the city's largest economic development projects ever with over 300 million dollars in investment in the next couple of years. The impact will be even greater in the long term, seeing over 3 billion dollars in economic impact over the next 20 years.

Kendall Yards exemplifies the economic growth vision for **Spokane** in that it creates opportunity for investment and subsequent increased revenues within our city borders, and it also preserves and improves a former non-productive and contaminated property. This is an excellent example of a multi-use development where people will live, work and play in the heart of **Spokane**.

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In mid-April **Spokane** formed two separate teams to represent the city in this project. Those teams are each headed by John Pilcher, our Director of Economic Development, and include members from planning, building, public works, finance and legal groups. The full teams have met multiple times with the Black Rock Development organization representatives with positive results.

The planning activity, including the planned unit development (PUD) application, for this project continues at a rapid pace. Some 25 departments and agencies (city, county, state, federal) are involved in reviewing the Kendall Yards application, including the **Spokane** Regional Transportation Council and Washington Department of Transportation. The city is taking steps to try to simplify other agency involvement.

Recognizing that the city has the ultimate responsibility to ensure a proposal meets the state and federal requirements related to traffic concurrency and air quality, we initiated a third-party review by an outside traffic engineering firm with experience in Washington state. We requested that this firm review our study requests and Kendall Yards submissions to date. We wanted to be sure that our process is adequate, meets legal requirements, and is timely and fair to the developer. This third party review confirmed the reasonableness of our information requests. This information will ultimately help Kendall Yards keep its project on track and assist in the assessment of environmental impacts in order to successfully move this project forward to the hearing examiner.

The date for a public hearing is August 3rd, 2006. The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. in the evening to accommodate citizen attendance and involvement. This is a project for all of **Spokane**.

And also from **Spokane** comes this word about Roger Flint, who has served as assistant city manager and public works and utilities director: Roger served **Spokane** for 20 years in a variety of management positions over his tenure. WCMA recognized Roger's leadership last year with the 2005 WCMA award of excellence for cities of 5,000 or more. Earlier this year Roger

accepted a position with CH2M HILL to head up their **Spokane** office as the area manager/vice president. He tells us this move will give him some new challenges and allow him to remain in the **Spokane** where his wife Patricia's family are and they have two children still in school. We will miss Roger in the public sector but certainly wish him well in his new position in the private sector. Although we hate to do it we all need to hire a good consultant from time to time!"

And don't forget. **Transition** (as "in transition") folks count, too. The following comes from the Regional Representative:

Greetings from the Rep in transition in Region 8.

Yvonne and I are doing fine and looking forward to seeing all of you in Blaine later this month. We spent last week in Leavenworth and can report that things there seem to be going fine and the city officials seem to be taking good care of their nice town. We donated our share in the dining and lodging department to help on the upkeep.

As a transitioning member, I would like to thank all my colleagues who have called and e-mailed. It is much appreciated.

Lewis "Griff" Griffin

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties

Mike Cecka, Management Consultant

ceckanewhorizons@yahoo.com or mike.cecka@co.chelan.wa.us

Region 9, Richard Brinkman,

City Administrator, City of Leavenworth

cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com

From **Leavenworth**, city administrator Richard Brinkman tells us that long-time public works director Mike Deason will be retiring at the end of the month. Mike has served the city exceptionally over the last 15 years, and while they are all sad to see him leave, they are also looking forward to welcoming new public works director Allen Kulp the week of August 14.

The city remains very busy with development activity and the tourist season, and looks forward to presenting the 2007 budget with a newly implemented city council budget planning process in place.

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

Blaine is closed for construction, or so it seems. The city is rebuilding Cherry Street and installing a 400,000 gallon equalization storage facility under Marine Drive. The truck route to the border crossing is being reconstructed (\$30 million) and GSA is getting ready to rebuild the Peace Arch Crossing. **Blaine** is in a bit of mess now, but when these projects are complete they will have a significant positive impact on our town.

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We are very pleased to announce that we cut the ribbon on our phase 1 boardwalk project. This phase consisted of constructing two large street end plazas on H and G streets. These plazas will be connected in phase 2. Phase 3 extends a pedestrian bridge over the Burlington Northern rail line to the marina. Phase 1 cost \$1.5 million. Phase 2 is expected to cost about \$1 million and we don't have an estimate for Phase 3.

In October we will be unveiling a major new sculpture on the H Street Plaza. Artist Robert McDermott has sculpted a life size three figure piece called the "The Vigil". The piece celebrates the fishing families that stayed home while the fishermen were away. The Vigil consists of two women, a mother and grown daughter, and a small boy looking out over Drayton Harbor. It is magnificent. The project was totally funded by community donations in the amount of \$200,000.

Welcome to Ken Knight the new city administrator in **Sumas**. Ken comes to Washington from Port Orford, Oregon. Ken has extensive experience in Maine, Florida and California. He was town manager in both Newport and Jackman, Maine. Ken has an MPA from Sonoma State University. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He is a Red Sox and Patriots fan, loves spicy food and is a wine enthusiast. Ken will be attending the conference at Semiahmoo. Welcome him to Washington.

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

Steve Nolen, city manager, **Mill Creek**, reports that they recently completed negotiations for the AFSCME union's second contract. This union represents all city employees other than sworn police personnel, confidential employees and managers. Steve calls the program "Performance Pay Program Revisions" for good reason.

Steve reports that although there was no formal agreement to use interest based bargaining, they were largely able to avoid traditional posturing and focus on the issues that were driving the proposals. The result was a constructive, respectful process, and the union and management teams felt they came away with a good contract.

The major issue we resolved related to the city's performance pay plan, which is unlike any of our comparables. The union had proposed to return to the traditional range-step-COLA pay plan, typical in local government. **Mill Creek** has a purely performance based pay program that is very strongly supported by the council and which had been resisted strenuously by the union during negotiation of the initial contract.

Early in these negotiations it was agreed to use as comparables cities in **Pierce, Snohomish and King Counties** that were within 25 percent of **Mill Creek's** population. All of those cities had a traditional range-step-COLA plan, with anywhere from 6 to 10 annual steps and movement to

the next step based on satisfactory performance. The differences between the traditional pay plan and **Mill Creek's** pay plan created quite a challenge in the negotiations.

Under the city's pay plan, employees receive a 3 percent salary increase for satisfactory performance up to 5 percent for exemplary performance. In addition, the employees can earn lump sum "performance" incentive awards of 2 percent to 3 or more percent over their base pay each year. Complicating matters further, the city has had a policy of making cost of living adjustments (COLA) to salary ranges, but not to individual salaries. Because the performance incentives didn't increase the base salary and because the COLA wasn't applied to individual salaries, the employees found themselves falling below their peers, even though the ranges tracked reasonably well with the market. The problem was magnified during inflationary times, and especially for entry-level employees, who might not reach the top of the range for 15 or more years.

Using a dynamic model, they were able to demonstrate the problem to the council, who authorized Steve to develop a performance-based system that would keep above average employees at or above the market, while allowing employees who did just satisfactory work to slip behind the market over time. They made the change by indexing the performance incentives program to inflation and adding those awards to base pay. The result was a pure performance-based pay plan that tracks well with the market over time.

Once the union bargaining team came to understand the dynamics of the proposed system, they were able to resolve the few remaining issues and conclude negotiations on a positive note. The 3-year contract was overwhelmingly accepted by the membership and was unanimously approved by the council. Contact Steve if you'd like the details of **Mill Creek's** pay program.

In **Mountlake Terrace**, city manager John Caulfield reports that the city is moving forward with creating a vision and implementation strategy to redevelop and revitalize the town center area. The city sponsored three community roundtable meetings in late July to solicit input on town center planning. The roundtable meetings went well, with good community representation and a

broad range of ideas. More than 200 people attended all three meetings over a three-day period to help set the vision for a revitalized **Mountlake Terrace** town center.

They have identified three days in September to host a design workshop and open house, which will allow opportunities for the community to have hands on participation in designing what a downtown could look like coupled with a visual preference survey to seek ideas and feedback on design standards.

City council members earlier decided to focus on a new town center plan that will spur economic development in the downtown area and provide for quality of life for residents and to strengthen their businesses. The council has requested that the plan be completed this year and that it include options for a new city hall. At the roundtable meetings, many participants said that if a

new city hall is built, it should promote downtown development and include new uses for the community, such as a senior center or a community center and space for groups to meet.

In June, the **Mountlake Terrace** presented its new 6-year financial forecast that is comprised of three components: 1) General government funds; 2) Capital improvement funds; and 3) Storm water, sewer and water utilities (operations and construction) funds. In total, the city's finances are very stable, particularly the city's general government and capital improvement funds. The 6-year financial forecast reveals an annual operating surplus through 2012. Likewise, the city's reserves are very strong.

The city's capital improvement funds, which include street, road and sidewalk construction, facilities, recreation and parks capital improvements, information technology capital investments, and traffic and signal control investments, are projected to invest \$10.8 million between now and 2012, including \$8.6 million for streets, roads and sidewalks. The investments being made in support of 2006 chip seal and overlay projects represent the most aggressive investments in a decade. They expect this to continue for the next 6 years.

The city's three utilities, storm water, sewer and water on the other hand are projected to have significant deficits by the end of 2012. They will be addressing options as part of the ensuing budget process.

From **Mukilteo**, city administrator Richard Leahy reports that Amy Williams has joined **Mukilteo** as its new assistant to the city administrator. Williams has an MPA from Arizona State University and previously worked for the city of Napa, California, and town of Los Gatos, California.

The decision of where to build the new **Mukilteo** city hall continues. Even though the city prevailed against a citizen's lawsuit to require that a ballot initiative determine the location of city hall, a change in elected leadership has put the matter back on the table for discussion. The council is considering four alternatives, including the previously selected site, the site specified in the invalidated initiative, an existing building, and an undeveloped site.

Redevelopment of the **Mukilteo** waterfront, east of the ferry landing, is finally underway. A superfund cleanup site for the past 11 years, the 22-acre abandoned Air Force fuel depot is finally clean. **Mukilteo**, working with the Port of **Everett**, Washington State Ferries (WSF), **Sound Transit**, and the city of **Everett**, was successful in getting the site transferred to the port.

The port has been busy installing utilities and constructing a pier for the offloading of aerospace materials; and **Sound Transit** is scheduled to begin construction of its commuter rail platform this fall. Meanwhile, WSF is completing the EIS to relocate the ferry launch and terminal to the 22-acre site to become the center of a regional multimodal transportation hub. WSF expects to begin construction in 2008 and be complete by 2011. The redeveloped 22-acre site will include a mix of public transportation, waterfront parks, commercial, and residential development.

Larry Bauman, **Snohomish** city manager, reports that the first segment of the **Snohomish** “big dig” project -- a \$9 million sewer trunk line project funded by the public works trust fund loan program -- is under construction and moving quickly toward completion. A second segment of the project is out to bid, and the public works board has ranked the \$7 million loan request for the final two segments as number 6 for the 2007 construction loan requests.

These sewer projects will allow the buildout of the city’s current urban growth areas and will be repaid through connection fees as development occurs. Considerable interest in development opportunities along the existing project corridors has been strong, and the early reaching of the city’s 2025 is likely as a result of these projects. For this reason, a private development proposal to add 370 acres to the city’s northern UGAs at US2 and SR9 is getting serious attention by council and staff; a formal docket request for expansion of the city’s UGA has been submitted by the developers to **Snohomish County**.

Meanwhile, construction of the city’s major retail development -- a two-phased project with a total of 450,000 square feet of retail space -- is under way. The project, to be anchored by Fred Myer and Home Depot, is being built on a property on east side of Bickford Avenue formerly used as a gravel mine. Property on the west side of Bickford is proposed by the same developers for 115 condominium multifamily residential units.

The major planning effort this year in **Snohomish** is engaging the community in creating a broad-based strategic plan that will result in 5-year, 10-year and 20-year strategies for growth, economic development, infrastructure needs, service improvements and the maintenance of levels of service. The first year action plan for the project is expected to be implemented within the 2007 budget and will be discussed with council later in August.

Region 12, North King County

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

mitch@clydehill.org

A special piece from one of our own, regional representative from Region 12, Mitch Wasserman, city administrator/clerk-treasurer, **Clyde Hill**:

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City Management and Baseball Umpiring

Mitch Wasserman – City Administrator/Umpire, City of Clyde Hill



“Oh, you work for a city”...strike one. “You’re also a baseball umpire?”...strike two! For whatever the reasons, some believe I already have two strikes against me because I spend so much time in two professions: city management and baseball umpiring. Many would say these two professions are nothing alike. I’d have to disagree and then call a balk on that comment. Although I hope I don’t look that old, I’ve been an umpire and in city management for about 25 to 30 years and believe any success I’ve had in either of these two careers may be linked to their similarities and the skills I’ve used in both professions.

With the weather so nice and major league baseball headed into the home stretch, I’d like to take a crack at sharing some thoughts on city management and baseball umpiring, and see if you’ll agree that the two are a lot alike. When you’re done reading this, maybe you’ll even agree to do some umpiring with me or at least not boo the umpires any more.

Why Would You Do This To Yourself?

One question I'm asked is why the heck are you in city management or umpiring? Why would anyone in their right mind subject themselves to constant criticism, second-guessing your every move, heckling, in-your-face personal discussions and occasional tantrums...and that's just during Council meetings! I believe the answer is similar for all of us in city management and umpiring, it's the passion for what we do and the knowledge that we are making a positive and direct difference.

Whether it's for the short-term enjoyment of a game or for the long-term enrichment of a community, it's a passion for what these professions do that drives folks to strap on the equipment when its 100 degrees outside or go to yet another late night meeting. It's knowing that we can directly and constructively influence the outcomes in a fair or positive way using personal skills and knowledge that seem to keep enough of us similarly motivated.

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Extensive Training & Skills:

Both professions require an extensive amount of training and a set of honed skills to do them well. Ever see the reaction of someone outside the profession as they try to understand a set of building codes or look up the infield fly rule? Did you know that in the Major League Baseball rulebook there are over 100 known inconsistencies with other rules in the same book? How many inconsistencies do you think there are in your municipal codes...don't say zero. An important skill to have in both professions is knowing just how and when to deal with these inconsistencies or ambiguities...everything we face is not always black or white.

When you get skilled in these professions you also get good at knowing the associated rules, interpreting them and using them for the benefit of all. Do you know how many different ways a pitcher can balk in baseball? (See below for answer)...Do you know how to change the zoning next to a residential property for a development that will benefit the entire community? (See below for answer)

Both professions need what umpires describe as an accomplished set of "Mechanics" to communicate well. These are the more physical or sometimes non-verbal aspects associated with what we do. Every capable umpire must be able to make a crisp out/safe call. Never use your thumb in an out call, use a closed fist and a motion like you're pounding a hammer. A conscientious umpire wants to have a good looking strike call and an excellent looking strike three call. It takes practice in front of a mirror before these mechanics look sharp. Do you think a manager has ever been found in front of a mirror honing their presentation skills before a big meeting or a press engagement?

Appropriate communication is critical in both professions. A good umpire has three different out/safe calls that are used depending on the intensity of the call and the need to "sell the call." A good manager also knows how and when to differ their management style. The differing techniques surrounding situational leadership is a good example and is second nature to managers as we adapt to our colleagues with diverse needs and skills.

The capacity to make decisions within pressure situations and having the ability to cope with stress is a necessary skill for both managers and umpires. All of us know we work in a fishbowl with folks looking over our shoulders (in umpiring, folks are literally sitting right behind you), second-guessing our decisions and trying to use their best techniques to influence that decision. All managers and umpires must possess the skills necessary to cope with this pressure, survive and still make good decisions.

Both professionals also need the ability to make split-second or very tough decisions that everyone will not agree with. I've never counted, but I'm sure during the course of a typical city management day I'll find the need to make numerous decisions, some tougher than others. In a 9-inning ballgame, there will be the need to make 350 to 550 ball/strike decisions and more than 54 out/safe calls. Many times these are split-second or multiple decisions within one play that require total concentration and keen judgment.

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As a manager have you ever found yourself in a very fast paced world with the need to adapt to constantly new or changing situations? As an umpire this happens with every pitch. A game will roll along and then zap, something extraordinary develops. Because of this constant change and the potential to deal with a sudden emergency, both professionals need the ability to anticipate or strategically plan for the future or find themselves unprepared and surprised. Neither a manager nor an umpire ever wants to find themselves surprised or unprepared.

Ever go toe-to-toe, hat brim to hat brim with folks that are "spitting mad" about an issue? Do you think both managers and umpires need the skills to diffuse these types of hostile situations? A fun difference between the two professions is that an umpire has the ability to toss someone out of the game. Ever wish you had that tool as a manager without having to deal with unions, progressive discipline or legal procedures? "You want to talk to me about a decision I just made?...what did you just say?...you're gone!"

I've found that both professions also require some unique personal traits for success. The ability to be aware of but ultimately tune out extraneous stress or noise in order to make a decision is very important. How about the need to remain calm and in control...folks are looking to you for stability and control in order for them to accomplish their need or to play the game.

As a manager and an umpire there will be a time when each of us will have to make a bona fide tough call or a decision that we know will have real negative consequences. There have been times when it's only you out there, all alone needing to make those decisions. So the next time you start screaming from the stands that an umpire made an awful call, try to remember that you've been there too, all alone, needing to make that tough decision...it's not always easy to do.

Thankless Jobs

Some believe that jobs in city management and umpiring are thankless jobs, I don't agree. I'm not convinced at all that a "thank you" is what keeps folks in these professions coming back.

You bet there are challenges, stress and that decisions will not be universally accepted. However, the thrill of hundreds or thousands of people waiting on your call or decision is exciting. I probably umpired a very good game when no one even knows I was there. Similarly, I probably managed a situation well when the results of my efforts are appreciated without the need for any personal accolades. It's all about empowering the players, whether they are in uniforms or in suits and dresses sitting on the Council.

9th Inning

I truly enjoy city management and being an umpire. Over the years I've seen a lot of balls and strikes, outs and safes and have addressed a host of challenging management situations. Many of the skills I use for each of those seemingly diverse professions are similar although on the surface they seem not to be related. Hopefully you had a little fun looking at the similarities and could relate to some of them.

At the end of each game an umpire sits down and evaluates their partner to share tips on how they can improve for their next game. Although we don't do this regularly in city management, within the umpiring spirit I'd like to share some parting words with you, my fellow city management partners: Call 'em as you see 'em, keep your eye on the ball, feed the passion that got you initially interested in what you're doing or before you know it, you're outta there!

Answer #1 – There are at least 19 different ways for a pitcher to balk in professional baseball.

Answer #2 - Walk the developer and make a pitch to the neighborhood association

* * * * *

Note: Larry Larse is a retired Honorary Member of WCMA. He served as city supervisor of **Pullman** and director of public works in **Kirkland**. After retiring from **Kirkland** he also preformed interim work as city administrator/manager.

HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO CUBA

Larry J. Larse

My wife, Gayle, and I belong to Friendship Force, an international organization dedicated to building global goodwill through personal friendships. If interested, you can get more information concerning Friendship Force at www.friendshipforce.org.

In January we traveled, legally, with a Friendship Force group to Cuba under permit from the US government as it was a humanitarian mission. We were hosted by the Cuban Council of Churches and worked on a project at a Methodist nursing home in Havana. We took with us many items that the people of Cuba need since they are either very scarce or rationed in Cuba.

These included soap, they get one bar per month, clothing, school supplies, match box toys and over the counter pharmacy supplies.

While we stayed in a hotel in old Havana we had our noon meals with the Council of Churches and our evening meals with families in their homes. Thus, we learned a lot about life in Cuba from these remarkable and lively people..

Historically Cuba was a country of elites and peasants, or “haves” and “have nots”. This changed after the revolution. Communism in Cuba has certainly developed an equalitarian society. A doctor and a taxi cab driver earn the same salary. We never saw a hungry Cuban. We never saw a homeless or ragged Cuban.

At the time of the 1959 revolution Cuba had a 60% literacy rate. That was quickly changed. Now the literacy rate is almost 100%. Education through university is free. Everyone is required to graduate from high school and if a student does not qualify for graduation at the end

the normal period, then the student will go to a “social school” full-time until such time as graduation is achieved. We visited a school for Downs syndrome patients. They have 2 teachers for about every 4 students and were teaching them, among other things, crafts that could be sold to help with their support. It was a very uplifting experience to see the joy at this school.

Medical care is free. Cuba has the world’s second highest ratio of doctors per population with one doctor for every 170 citizens. Their infant mortality rate and life expectancy exceeds that of the US. Cuba supplies medical personnel to Africa, Latin America and now Kashmir and Indonesia after the natural disasters in these areas. Fact is, they offered 1200 doctors to New Orleans after Katrina.

Due to the US economic embargo, Cuba relied upon the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union collapsed, about half of the Cuban economy went down the drain. The government started an austerity program called “the special times.” From this low point the economy has slowly improved.

Havana is a jewel of a city with wonderful 18th and 19th century architecture. Much of this is in disrepair, some buildings have collapsed, and I am afraid that an architectural disaster is on the way. Also, the general infrastructure of the country is in poor condition.

There are not many automobiles, so traffic congestion is not a problem. Public transportation is dilapidated, crowded and unreliable. Masses of people can be seen on the streets and highways hitchhiking. Cuba recently purchased a number of replacement buses from China. I observed them parked in a lot being made ready for service and frankly they looked very good.

A lot of transportation is by taxi. Cubans are masters at keeping 1950 vintage US cars on the road. Some have replacement drive trains, but many are stock and in excellent condition. Under

Communism in Cuba you can have a private business, but only hire one other employee. Thus, many of the private enterprises are taxi businesses.

In Cuba, all land is owned by the government. You cannot own your own home, but you can live there by permit. You cannot sell the permit, but can trade it to someone else. There is a formal market for trading these permits. Housing is in short supply, so if a child marries the couple will probably live with one of the parents unless there simply is not enough space in the parent's home.

Electricity is scarce. Streets in Havana are not well lighted. You cannot purchase a microwave oven or air conditioner. They just simply are not available. There are 4 government owned TV channels. Since Cuba is only 90 miles from Key West, I do not recall seeing a roof mounted TV antenna and of course you cannot install a satellite dish. Many other items are rationed, such as only being allowed 4 eggs each month per person.

We visited a tourist hotel area southeast of Havana. To restrict foreign contact, Cubans cannot go there without a work permit. In fact Cubans cannot enter any hotel, even in Havana. I was

told that the major tourist month is August because that is when the Europeans take their holiday.

We came back with a desire to help the Cuban people. My wife and I have been to China with Friendship Force and found that their society appears to be much less repressive than that of Cuba. Cuba is the only country in the world to which we cannot travel or engage in commerce. To help the citizens of Cuba I want my government to begin to allow more person to person contacts with the people of Cuba. In short I want our embargo against our next door neighbor lifted which will have much more direct effect than the "wishful thinking" that change will come with the eventual demise of Fidel Castro.

From **Kirkland**, city manager Dave Ramsay reports that as they get ready for the upcoming budget process, they in **Kirkland** find themselves in the surreal world of being "cash rich and money poor." On the one hand the red hot construction industry is fueling record setting levels of sales tax revenue. However on the other hand their budget projections continue to show them in a long-term deficit situation. Fundamental to all of this is the concern of what happens when the construction activity cools off and not falling into the trap of being dependent on this cyclical revenue. They keep saying that it can't last. But they've been saying that for the past four years. Should be an "interesting" budget process!

And speaking of budget processes, they feel that they're in good hands. With the retirement of Lynn Stokesbary, they had the opportunity to promote former finance director Marilynne Beard to the position of assistant city manager. Their latest addition to the executive team has been the appointment of Tracey Dunlap as the new finance director. Many of you have worked with Tracey in her former life with FCS Consulting.

In the meantime, the issue of annexation dominates much of their thinking. They have the "opportunity" to pursue annexation of the area north of **Kirkland** that would add some 35,000

residents. The recently passed state legislation now makes this annexation financially feasible (well, almost) by passing along some state revenue for 10 years. They've been doing a series of council briefings and their next steps will involve a "community conversation." At this point there are more questions than answers; amongst the biggest is what do they do after the 10 years of state revenue runs out. Stay tuned.

From **Medina**, Doug Schulze, city manager, reports:

Motherhood, baseball, apple pie, and public libraries? This past June, the **Medina** city council, in response to a citizen request, considered asking voters to determine if the need for public libraries has been met by Google, Amazon, Wikipedia, AskJeeves, etc. The citizen request urged the city council to let the voters determine if **Medina** should withdraw from the **King County** library system by placing a proposition on the upcoming general election ballot. The debate quickly turned into a living demonstration of the old saying, "figures lie and liars figure" as opponents, proponents and the media set out to make their case. In the end, we found just about every method of breaking down the cost of library services known to man!

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The city council decided to hold off on a ballot proposition, but agreed to contact elected officials from other **King County** library system cities and towns to determine if there is sufficient interest to jointly approach the KCLS trustees and director regarding the cost of the library system. The KCLS will spend \$10.00 per capita in 2006, which is almost three times the national average of \$3.75 per capita.

We have also selected Johnston Architects to conduct a structural assessment of **Medina** city hall and design an addition, which will potentially increase available space in city hall by about 50%. This is the third attempt in the past 10 years to address the space needs so, maybe the third time will be a charm! Currently, plans are to complete the design by the end of the year and start construction in early 2007.

From **Shoreline**, Bernard Seeger, management analyst, sends the following:

Many of the major capital improvement projects that have been in the planning, public review, and environmental study process are finally coming to fruition here in **Shoreline**. To start, the city has finally completed its north city business district revitalization project. In this project the city completed an urban renewal of about 10 blocks of one of **Shoreline's** primary commercial districts. The project included new sidewalks, undergrounding of all utilities, street trees, landscaping, park benches and stained/imprinted concrete crosswalks, new street and pedestrian lighting, and repavement of the entire corridor, in addition to upgraded water, sewer, and stormwater lines and systems. While the year of construction was a significant challenge for business owners, the overwhelming feedback has proven to be very positive from both a business and citizen perspective.

Next, **Shoreline** broke ground on the 1st mile of the Aurora corridor improvement project. This project has been in the planning stages for almost 10 years and will have a major impact on the safety, capacity, and economic viability of the city's core commercial district and local throughway. Similar to the model provided by **SeaTac** with their International Boulevard improvements, the project includes new contiguous sidewalks with street trees and landscaping strip, undergrounding of all utilities, raised and landscaped medians with pocket U-turns, crosswalk amenities, new streetlights and signals, and an addition of a business and transit lane for both directions. The waste water district and water utility also increased their flow capacity and the city upgraded its stormwater treatment facilities and delivery systems. Beyond these improvements, this project also includes the construction of two pedestrian bridges crossing Aurora Avenue. North and 155th Street, providing seamless and separate from grade pedestrian and bicyclist transit from the southern to northern boundary of the city.

The last development worth mentioning is the **Shoreline's** recent success in the May '06 parks and open space bond initiative. Over 70% of the voters agreed to a property tax levy increase of about \$7/month (on the average home) over 15 years to fund \$18.5

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million worth of projects. With these funds the city will purchase 25 acres of open space, pursue major improvements to several parks such as irrigation, synthetic field turf, natural area upgrades, lighting and restroom upgrades, creation of an off-leash dog park, and establishment of trail improvements and trail connectors to major landmarks within the city.

These and other developments are keeping the staff busy and continue to make for exciting and interesting times for **Shoreline**.

Mitch, I've attached a few photos as well just in case. Please contact me if you have any questions.

The following photographs help illustrate the work being done:

1st Picture North City looking south down 15th Ave. NE



north city.jpg

2nd Picture The interurban bridge pedestrian trail girders being installed over Aurora Ave. N. with a glimmer of "higher" support as shown with the appearance of a rainbow during the process.



interurban bridge.jpg

And from **Sound Transit**, Joni Earl, executive director, furnishes the following word:

Sound Transit continues to build transit projects around the region, including the light rail project, commuter rail track and signal projects and stations, plus direct access ramps and transit centers. If you have been near the airport, I hope you have noticed the elevated light rail construction along SR518 and I-5. The board has just released three sample investment scenarios for public discussion and comment as we move towards a joint ballot in November 2007 with the Regional Transportation Investment District - the regional roads package.

I am personally sad to report that my Deputy CEO of over 5 years -- our own Vernon Stoner -- is leaving **Sound Transit** on August 15 to become the new regional administrator - Region 3 - for the state Department of Labor and Industries. On a happy note, this means he will be able to move full time into his brand new home with his wife rather than just doing so on weekends. He has been an incredible asset to **Sound Transit** and a wonderful side-kick, confidante, and friend. He will be missed very much.

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The current “last word” from **Woodinville** comes from city manager Pete Rose, who will soon be the new (and first) county administrator of **San Juan County**, which recently adopted a county charter to become a home rule county.

Pete says, “I leave the city of **Woodinville** in the capable interim manager hands of finance director Jim Katica. The city council has decided to use the Prothman firm to select the new city manager.”

The cup is both half empty and half full in **Woodinville**. There are several wonderful commercial projects that will bring \$300-500 million in construction to **Woodinville** in the next 2-3 years, led by the wine village project that has already broken ground and is sure to draw many of you as tourists. Three of the toughest traffic choke points are now fully funded and will be constructed in the next 2 years. Two more have millions in the fold waiting for match money. A permit system study has resulted in consolidating land use and building permitting together with long range planning into a department of planning and development services. This reorganization is being completed and new practices embedded this summer.

There is also a land use moratorium covering hundreds of acres currently developed at less-than 4 units per acre. It is focused on the need for an environmental land use capacity study and additional measures needed for ESA protections. This work will need people with “game” to guide it through GMA hearings board challenges. The city is now spending significant money in court to challenge the Brightwater project. It has spent a tremendous amount of funds fighting the homeless and churches over tent city in a breach of contract where the city is correct, but

damages are hard to prove. The city council has spent the first half of the year bitterly divided from a political campaign that will not end and it is affecting both governance and staff retention.

Nonetheless, my time in **Woodinville** was a great run of accomplishments and professional growth. My thanks to all of you who helped me along the way.

Region 13, South King County
Joyce Papke, Interim City Manager
joycep@ci.normandy-park.wa.us

From **Federal Way**, we get word from Derek Matheson, assistant city manager who has been serving as interim city manager. He reports:

Federal Way welcomed new city manager Neal Beets on August 1. Neal comes from Roseville, Minnesota, where he succeeded Steve Sarkozy (now city manager of **Bellevue**) and went on to serve as manager for five years. He was previously the city attorney in Mesa, Arizona, for 14 years.

Construction continues on the city's state-of-the-art community center, which will open in early 2007. It will feature two swimming pools, three gymnasiums, three community rooms, a fitness

center, jogging track, climbing wall, senior lounge, and other amenities. It will replace a temporary community center the city opened after incorporation, as well as the aging "Forward Thrust" pool the city acquired from **King County** a few years ago.

The **Federal Way** city council is taking a serious look at annexing its entire urban growth area, which would increase the city's population and land area by 25%. New state legislation and incentive funds from **King County** make annexation a better financial decision than in the past.

Economic development continues to be a top priority for the city council. The council recently amended the city's downtown development regulations to prohibit uses inconsistent with a multi-story, mixed-use urban center. Previously the city's regulations allowed desirable uses but did not prohibit other uses. The council has also created a \$5 million fund that will allow the city to participate in public-private partnerships for redevelopment.

Finally, the city council is likely to ask voters this November for a utility tax increase to add 18 police officers along with a prosecutor, court clerk, code enforcement officer, and parks maintenance staff. The city has been in budget cutting mode for the last several years, so the council feels it is time for voters to decide what level of service they want in the public safety arena.

From **Normandy Park**, Joyce Papke, interim city manager reports that it's an exciting time there as they gear up for the interviews of potential city manager candidates. Greg Prothman is

handling the recruitment and has helped them attract a great slate of well-qualified folks for this position.

The city is undergoing a particularly busy time with respect to development. **Normandy Park** is largely residential, with a small commercial corridor running down the east side of town. In addition to a fair amount of development on the residential side, they are beginning an enhancement/redevelopment phase along the commercial corridor as well. As many of you know, this opportunity can be both exciting and stressful for the community.

For those of you following the previous decision by the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board (CPSGMHB) regarding densities in **Normandy Park**, and the subsequent overturning of that decision in **King County** Superior Court, the CPSGMHB has taken another look and reversed their original decision. This is excellent news for all of us who believe in the GMA, but also believe that decisions as to how to implement it belong with the local elected officials of each community.

The city council, boards and commissions, and staff, are busy with the usual flurry of development, code enforcement, law enforcement, infrastructure and environmental issues. It's been rewarding to serve as the interim city manager for the past eleven months, but it will be

great to identify a new city manager and welcome him/her on board over the coming weeks.

See you all in Semiahmoo!

From **SeaTac**, city manager Craig Ward reports that a levy lid lift (Proposition 1) will go before the voters on September 19, 2006. The city will be using reserves to build a new fire station headquarters, however, replacement of the other two stations, additional equipment, and additional firefighters and staff are proposed to be funded by the levy.

SeaTac launched its Comcast government access cable channel a little over a year ago. Council meetings are not being recorded at this time, however, they recently contracted with a firm to produce an informational video on the upcoming levy lid lift proposition and a promotional video showcasing events which took place during the international festival weekend to include the parade, the dedication of the Japanese Garden at the Highline **SeaTac** Botanical Garden, the car show, and skateboard competition.

Nationally recognized transit oriented development (TOD) consultant Marilee Utter made a presentation to the city council recently and provided her insights regarding the TOD opportunities in the city's station areas. This is an exciting time for the city as they carefully plan for the light rail stations and surrounding areas.

On the economic development front, a task force was formed to evaluate two mixed-use development proposals the city received in response to the RFP **SeaTac** issued earlier this year. The council has preliminarily appropriated \$18.3 million in development subsidies as incentive for mixed-use development on International Boulevard.

The city had 21 neighborhood parties register to participate in this year's National Night Out Against Crime held August 1. In 2005, the city received the 2005 national award from the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and Target recognizing outstanding participation in this national event and participation continues to grow.

Region 14, Pierce County

Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor

hoppenm@cityofgigharbor.net

“Our own” ICMA vice president, Bob Jean, city manager, **University Place**, brings us these comments:

Subject: Poland Workshop July 4-7, 2006

By way of continuing our board discussion of developing concurrent international program strategies in addition to USAID, I participated in several meetings and facilitated a workshop of

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local government officials in Poland over four days this July 4-7, 2006. I had been invited by Malgorzata Ornoch-Tabedzka of Partners in Local Governance after her exchange visit this spring to Washington state. As it turns out, Malgorzata had worked with Dennis Taylor several years ago in Poland. Dennis provided me with a letter of introduction on behalf of ICMA to the workshop participants.

- July 4 at the American Embassy, Warsaw--Malgorzata and I met in Krakow and enroute to Poznan, stopped in Warsaw. We had been invited by the ambassador's local government liaison officer to attend the 4th of July celebration. As it turns out, the ambassador is the former mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, and past president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. We spoke briefly and he asked why I was in Poland. I quickly explained ICMA's interest in maintaining local government connections in light of declining USAID grants and the idea of developing corporate sponsors. He was very interested and reached into his pocket for a business card and asked that we contact him further, offering both his assistance and support. The event was full of corporate sponsors that would be the Who's Who of a potential contact list. We then met with his liaison officer and discussed follow-up ideas.

- Mosina Visit--Malgorzata is a councilmember in her City of Pueschecova (please excuse my slaughter of Polish names, I'm trying to get this report out and my notes are

still at home), but she's at odds with her mayor, so she arranged an exchange visit with the neighboring City of Mosina and the mayor and staff. Of particular interest to me was the mayor's plan to convert a central parking area into a pedestrian oriented town square. I was impressed by the attention of their planning staff to the environmental impacts of the project, but surprised when I asked the mayor about the coordination between planning and finance at to the strategic impacts--nobody had put 1 and 1 together to get 2! Clearly the focus is on the political clout of the mayor to power through on his/her agenda, and even the best of the mayors who work well with staff and involve their councils haven't connected in with the synergies of a real mayor/council/staff team.

- Province Visit--Later that same day (Wednesday) we met with the governor of the Province and discussed essentially state and local relations in Poland. Capital funding for roads is an issue that pits the Province and local governments one against another, when, I suggested, they should be lobbying together at the national level for a larger share of the fuel tax. Poland follows the more rational British model in that they have more clearly defined levels of functional authority (e.g. police at the national level, fire at the provincial or regional level and land use at the local level). The provincial and local officials all seemed to get along quite well but have limited opportunities for collaboration.
- Workshop--I then facilitated a two-day training workshop on teambuilding and community involvement at the invitation of the Weilkopolska Association of Municipalities. We had about 20 mayors and about half a dozen staffers mostly from

cities but two from counties attending. I had been told to expect translation to be both problematic and time consuming. With help from Malgorzata and one of her partners, we worked out a Polish two-step, where I'd present my materials or thoughts and then Malgorzata or her partner would translate, but while we were getting comments back, the other would simultaneously translate to me, and in this way we kept the flow moving without too much delay for translation. After the first couple of hours, it became obvious that the issues facing cities/counties are fundamentally generic and the same, whether in the U.S. or Poland, and that became our common language. We dealt with organizational theory, communications theory and individual communications style...all of it highly interactive and participatory. By the end of the first day, we were all into it. The second day we got into a lot of "case study" examples of problems they were facing and how to apply the theories.

- Workshop--Thursday and Friday, I was the guest of the Weilkopolska Association of Municipalities

Clearly, as local government managers and as ICMA, there is much we can share and contribute in the areas of governance, capital improvement and economic development. By using the local government associations as hosts (lodging in private homes and meals) and ICMA members donating time pro bono, such exchanges or workshops can be done on a very low-cost basis, if

we can use corporate donations or grants to cover the direct hard costs (mostly airfare) and our own indirect overhead support costs.

Others from WCMA who participated were Lloyd Halverson, city administrator, **Camas**, Bill McDonald, city administrator, **Dupont**, and Andrew Neiditz, city manager, **Lakewood**.

A clear example of "COMMUNICATION HELPS!" This one also comes from Bob Jean, city manager, **University Place**:

Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Mayor, City Council and on behalf of the citizens of the City of University Place. We want to thank you for your commitment to the Federal-Local partnerships necessary in building strong communities and economies. The proposed Telcom Bills being pushed particularly by Verizon and other wireline phone companies is their "quick fix" solution that undercuts necessary and responsible local control, and as proposed would cost the City of University Place up to \$1 million per year or 8% of our General Fund in lost revenues! Please carefully consider the impacts of any Federal action:

1) LOCAL FRANCHISES AND COMMUNITY WIDE SERVICE--Cities are not the franchising impediment that the lobbyists are claiming. Comcast and other cable companies were able to successfully negotiate local franchises and so can the wireline

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phone companies. This is "Chicken Little" lobbying! If any Federal guidelines are appropriate it would be along the lines of timelines for negotiations AFTER submitting complete applications. Additionally, Verizon and their lobbyists do not want to serve the entire community, but want the option to "cherry pick" only the wealthy customers and by-pass others. City and county franchises require service to the entire community. If not local government, who will regulate the thousands of service areas...the FCC?

2) LOCAL REVENUES--Cities and counties should be held harmless and new franchises (however granted) should maintain local revenue fees and taxes.

3) RIGHTS OF WAY--Local rights-of-way are locally owned and any Federal preemption is a de facto "taking". While cities and counties should not unreasonably withhold utility access to these local public rights-of-way, local permits and repair/maintenance requirements must be protected. Left to their own, the telcos would shred our streets and destroy their physical integrity.

4) COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING--When cable companies started they held out the carrot of community access "narrowcast" programming. Proposed legislation would undercut both the funding and the channels necessary to provide community (PEG)

programming. Their alternative is more shop at home channels at the expense of an informed community.

Reasonable legislation updating the Telecommunications Act will strengthen the State/Local role in partnership with the Federal government. The proposed legislation is pure and simple and end run around legitimate State and Local authority. Please don't let this happen. Force the Telcos to work with the State and Local Government associations and come back to Congress with a balanced proposal. As always, thank you for your support and consideration.

Robert Jean, City Manager

A final note:

1. We have been advised at MRSC to try not to send large attachments by web. Apparently it has to do with overloading the equipment here, and also perhaps something to do with the new spam filters in use, both on the MRSC end, and on your end. We've had a number of complaints in the past about people not being able to open a large attachment, specifically WCMA News. For that reason, this issue is NOT being sent as an attachment to the folks signed up for the mass e-mail broadcast. Instead, the WCMA website is being utilized by having the new issue posted there. And then the mass e-mail facility is being used to let you know that the new issue has been posted to the website. If

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for some reason you have trouble opening it or obtaining it through the web, please let me know. Send an e-mail to Ron Bartels at rbartels@mrsc.org. And I'm hoping that you'll talk up the fact that it's out there among those WCMA folk in your area. If you hear of someone who isn't aware of it, please call this to their attention. And perhaps tell them how to gain access. The way is:

- A. Go to the WCMA website at <http://wccma.org>.
- B. In the stripe at the top of the page, you'll see "Newsletter". Click on it.
- C. The page that comes up contains links to all the past issues of WCMA News that were put out in electronic format, as well as the new and current one. That's Volume 18, No. 1, April 2006, the "hot off the press" issue.
- D. If you stumble onto somebody who does not have computer access, please also let me know at rbartels@mrsc.org. We can mail them a paper copy. They should be a member of WCMA.

Transitions

John Adamson is now planning and community development manager of Normandy Park. He was formerly community development director of Milton.

Marilynne Beard, formerly finance director, is the new assistant city manager of Kirkland.

Neal Beets has been named the new city manager of Federal Way. He comes west from Roseville, Minnesota, where he has been city manager.

Steve Burkett, former city manager of Shoreline, has become a partner in the consulting firm Management Partners, Incorporated.

Charlie Bush, recently intergovernmental management analyst, Bellevue, has been appointed assistant to the city manager there.

Ken Carter, former city administrator of Prosser, is now the city administrator of Milton.

Andrew Dempsey has resigned as city manager of Covington. He submitted the resignation letter on May 30, to be effective September 1, 2006.

John Hodgson has been named the chief administrative officer of Kent. He has been serving as the interim chief administrative officer there, and before that had been the Kent parks and recreation director.

Cal Hoggard, former real estate services manager for King County, has retired.

Mark Hoppen, city administrator of Gig Harbor, and that city, have parted company.

Doug Jacobson, formerly the public works director/city engineer of Mill Creek has gone to Bothell as public works director.

Jim Katica, currently finance director of Woodinville, has been named interim city manager there.

Kenneth D. Knight has been appointed city administrator of Sumas. He was formerly city administrator of Port Orford, Oregon.

Paul Krauss, planning director of Auburn for the last twelve years, who has also regularly represented the city at the King County managers/administrators meetings, has separated from the city and is in transition.

Gary Long, former city manager of Burien, has been serving as the interim city manager of Carnation.

Merlin MacReynold, who was former city manager of Normandy Park, and then worked as a part of the consulting team with **Greg Prothman**, has been named the new city manager of Chehalis, following **Dave Campbell**.

Derek Matheson, assistant city manager of Federal Way, returns to that chair after having served as interim city manager there.

Dennis Osborn is now the deputy city manager of Battle Ground.

Mark Panther is now the city administrator of West Richland.

Joyce Papke, assistant city manager of Normandy Park, has been named interim city manager there. **Joyce** has also agreed to become the new regional representative for WCMA for region 13, south King County.

Tina Rogers is now the assistant city manager of SeaTac.

Pete Rose, most recently city manager of Woodinville, has been named the new county administrator of San Juan County. This is a new position, resulting from a process that saw a board of freeholders of the county prepare and then submit to the voters a proposed new home rule charter, which the voters approved.

Lynn Stokesbary, former assistant city manager of Kirkland, has retired. He has joined the consulting team of **Greg Prothman**.

Vernon Stoner is making a move. He will be leaving his position with Sound Transit on August 15 to become the new regional administrator - Region 3 - for the state Department of Labor and Industries.

Fred Stouder is now the city administrator of Prosser.

Bob Stowe, former city manager of Mill Creek, is now the city manager of Bothell.

Craig Ward is now city manager of SeaTac, having succeeded **Bruce Rayburn** when he retired from the manager position.

Amy Williams is the new assistant to the city administrator in Mukilteo.

Steve Worthington is now the city manager of Fife.

In Memoriam

Dena Laurent Sorenson passed away on Monday, July 3, 2006. She served us all with such commitment over the past year, to assure the monthly King County CM/CAO meetings covered topics of great interest and currency. And all on a voluntary basis. Her compensation was to remain a part of the city management family, and keep her hand in the work she loved so much.

Dotty Tryk, assistant chief administrative officer for Thurston County, passed away Friday evening, July 21, 2006, after a three year fight against cancer. She had worked for Thurston County in this capacity for nine years. Her city manager roots lie in Oregon having worked for Keiser, Grants Pass and Cottage Grove. She was a former president of OCMA.

WCMA Officers and Board Members

President Malcolm Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Bellingham
(360) 676-6979 malcolm@cob.org

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

Past President David Ramsay, City Manager, Kirkland
(425) 587-3001 dramsay@ci.kirkland.wa.us

Secretary-Treasurer Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director, MRSC
(206) 625-1300 ryukubousky@mrsc.org

Board of Directors

(2004 – 2006) William McDonald, City Administrator, Dupont
(253) 964-8121 bmcdonald@ci.dupont.wa.us

Debra Symmonds, Deputy City Manager, Mercer Island

(206) 236-5325 deb.symmonds@ci.mercer-island.wa.us

(2005 – 2007) John C. Darrington, City Manager, Richland
(509) 942-7381 jdarrington@ci.richland.wa.us

Donald D. Krupp, Chief Administrative Officer, Thurston County
(360) 754-2960 kruppd@co.thurston.wa.us

Cathy Mulhall, County Administrator, Chelan County
(509) 667-6216 cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us

Mary P. Swenson, Chief Administrative Officer, Marysville
(360) 363-8088 mswenson@ci.marysville.wa.us

Ben Yazici, City Manager, Sammamish
(425) 836-7902 byazici@ci.sammamish.wa.us

Ex Officio members

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

Bob Jean, ICMA Regional Vice President, City Manager, University Place
(453) 253-460-2501 bjean@cityofup.com

Roger Crum, RangeRider
(509) 363-0034 rdcrum@comcast.net

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

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

L. Joe Miller, RangeRider
(425) 454-9793 leonjoe724@msn.com

2006 Calendar

- **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

2007 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference**, March 27 -- 30, 2007, Skamania Lodge, Stephenson, Washington

- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 12 -- 15, 2007, Tacoma, Washington
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, August 14 -- 17, 2007. The Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla, Washington
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, October 7 -- 10, 2007, Pittsburgh/Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

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

Please send news articles to:

WCMA News c/o MRSC
2601 4th Avenue, Suite 800 • Seattle, WA 98121-1280
(206) 625-1300 Phone • 1-800-922-6772
(206) 625-1220 Fax
or preferably e-mail rbartels@mrsc.org