



WCMA News

Volume 19, No. 1, March 2007

President's Message

Life here in **Walla Walla** has focused on new projects and finishing some projects carried over from 2006. We also have spent time with the city council setting goals, and setting goals with the executive management, who provides input and sets goals consistent with the city council. Fortunately this does not happen all at the same meeting -- I have separate meetings for each group.

In January we decided with the comprehensive plan steering committee to host a month of weekend walks in four areas of the city. These were followed by Monday or Tuesday evening meetings to gather input to forward to the comprehensive plan consultants. Some residents said they were disappointed that we picked the coldest month, but we managed to hold walks every weekend with only a couple of the 10:00 a.m. times cancelled due to ice in favor of drinking coffee and talking. The results were a lot of public input and the city staff was provided an opportunity to explain process and problem resolution in a relaxed atmosphere. We also heard that the primary concerns were sidewalks and street repair -- anyone have any money out there?

The WCMA board met on February 15 in Olympia as part of the City Legislative Conference. The board authorized hosting the ICMA 2015 conference if the ICMA board grants the opportunity. The board heard a report that John Darrington, **Richland**, is leaving the profession in June, and possibly the country. Ben Yazici, **Sammamish**, took over the international committee from John and we talked about Ben's committee members and anyone interested in serving should let Ben know. Bob Jean, **University Place**, updated the board on the ICMA board activities. The three major topics were the 2015 ICMA conference application status, the Western Regional Leadership summit in Sante Fe, New Mexico on April 19 and 20, and sustainability.

SEE YOU AT SKAMANIA LODGE!!

2007 Northwest Regional Managers Conference March 27 - 30, 2007
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

The board discussed linking with AWC to explore the development of a research paper on how the Western states finance development, and why the Washington system does not provide

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sufficient funds. A small group plans to meet with AWC staff to explore this opportunity. The next board meeting will be Friday morning, March 30, at Skamania Lodge.

Time is growing short to sign up and attend the Spring Northwest Regional Management Conference at Skamania Lodge. Come on down March 27 – 30. There will be some **Walla Walla** wine available since we must prepare for the Summer Conference here on August 14 through 17.

See you at Skamania,

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

Editor's Note:

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. If, along the way, you stumble on something that tells us all that the listing for another person, or for someone you know, is incorrect, please send us an alert, and we'll chase it down. Send the results to either Donita Knutson at dknutson@mrsc.org, or to me at rbartels@mrsc.org.

Ron Bartels, editor
WCMA News

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: aljeanynel@earthlink.net

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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

And now, the news:

Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties

Lynn Nordby, Consultant

lnordby@msn.com or lnordby@MUNI.com

Bill Elliott, city manager, **Sequim**, reports that other than the usual 3,000 new residential lots approved in a city of 5,030 population to go with a new Costco store sitting beside the two year old Home Depot across the street from the two year old Wal-Mart and Office Depot breaking ground beside the new bank and Sleep Country Mattress store, many other smaller retail establishments in the area and the requisite latté drive-in on every corner to round it all off, things are pretty quiet. Isn't everyone else doing the same?

Jim Jones is the new **Clallam County** administrator replacing Dan Engelbertson.

Nancy Buonanno Grennan is the new **Kitsap County** administrator replacing Cris Gears.

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

Mike McCarty, Assistant Director, Operations and Services, AWC

mikem@awcnet.org

There's lots going on in **Centralia**.

Economic Development

Polo Enriquez, a native of South Texas, is the **Centralia's** new director of economic development. Before coming to **Centralia** in October, Polo served as executive director of the Hutto Economic Development Corporation. Hutto is a community of about 12,000 people located 25 miles northeast of Austin, Texas.

As director of economic development, Polo will focus a lot of his attention on accomplishing the goals in the city's Downtown Hospitality/Revitalization Plan. One immediate project Polo has is to assist the downtown merchants and property owners in creating a Main Street Approach program which can then be used to promote downtown businesses and events, both within and outside the community. Another goal is to help downtown property owners fill the various vacant downtown buildings. The plan is to conduct an aggressive regional marketing campaign

designed to bring entrepreneurs and investors to **Centralia** and occupy those buildings, adding to the economic vitality of the community and improving the tax base.

Convention & Meeting Recruitment

Julie Noice is **Centralia's** new convention and meeting recruitment specialist. She will be developing, planning and administering marketing strategies and incentives to recruit conventions and meetings for the city. She will also provide assistance with group tours, business training seminars, meetings and conferences, excursions, and other promotional opportunities that draw visitors to **Centralia**. In addition to marketing and recruiting, Julie will be working as the liaison between clients and hospitality providers to develop a competitive, compatible and unique package that meets the client's needs.

Julie has worked in the hospitality industry for over 15 years, and her experience includes sales and marketing in the hotel and casino industry. She started her career in California and moved to Washington 14 years ago where she continued working with 3 and 4 star properties specializing in corporate, association and convention group sales.

If you know of a small to mid-sized organization that is looking for a quality meeting experience, **Centralia** is the spot! **Centralia** emphasizes that their location between Seattle and Portland makes them a natural. Julie can be reached at 360-330-7505.

Historic Preservation

In 2004, **Centralia** completed Phase I of the Edison District inventory project. Phase II is now underway to complete the home inventory and enable the district to qualify for historic registers. The city received a grant from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to cover a substantial portion of this work. The city has hired Thomason and Associates to complete a field survey and conduct historical research. A public meeting was held in February to inform residents of the Edison District of the scope and intent of the project. Another meeting will be held in March to present the project findings and recommendations.

Transportation

Centralia reports that they are currently working hard on a number of transportation issues, including a full rebuild on the Grand Mound interchange in partnership with **Thurston County** and a west side connector that would provide a new bridge from Fords Prairie to the hospital area, as well as improvements from the Mellen Street interchange to Airport Road and a connection onto the road that fronts the Louisiana Avenue development.

New Batting Cage Open at Wheeler Field

Thanks to the generosity of Lyle Overbay, starting first baseman for the Toronto Blue Jays (and a **Centralian**), the community now has a state-of-the-art batting cage facility at Wheeler Field.

Shred-A-Thon

The crime of the century appears to be growing with one in five people indicating they are

concerned about identify theft, according to a national survey. To battle this increasing crime, the **Centralia** police department is joining with the Washington's Law Enforcement Group Against Identify Theft to offer a free community Shred-A-Thon in April. The goal of the event is to help local businesses and consumers minimize the risk of identity theft by destroying old documents that contain private information.

Merlin MacReynold, city manager, **Chehalis**, sends the following:

Hard to believe I have been here almost a year now. At the same time, I have been so busy it is hard to believe I haven't been here longer. At the end of last year we completed a reorganization of the administrative structure of the city that was unanimously supported by the city council. Budgets were developed to implement the changes and it all went into effect January 1st. This was a big change for the city as it abolished one department and moved some services into other departments. It also established an office of economic development with two existing staff members that have hit the ground running.

The Prothman Company helped us replace our departing police chief. After a very intensive process I have hired Glenn Schaffer, who was the assistant police chief in Aspen, Colorado. Glenn has started and made some important organizational changes in the police department already.

We are about to go out to bid for remodeling a building that was purchased to consolidate some of our city services. We will be moving our police department, municipal court and community development department into this building. It is right across the street from the **Chehalis** Commons, where we have city hall and the Timberland Library.

In addition to the facilities issues with our new building, we will be building a new library on the existing site at the **Chehalis** Commons. This Timberland Library will be almost completely built with private donations. The biggest contributor has been Orin Smith, late of Starbucks fame, that has donated over \$1 million. The plan is to demolish the old library at the end of this summer and begin construction soon after. We will be temporarily housing the library in the basement of our new building across the street.

The Chamber Way Roundabouts Project continues to be more than challenging. I have renamed it the Chamber Way Project, no roundabouts, as the costs of the roundabouts have skyrocketed to \$8 million plus for a quarter mile of road. Currently, we are exploring other more cost effective options to provide the needed transportation capacity for the commercial development in that area of our city. At the next reporting I hope to be able to tell you that we are under construction.

Further, we are currently in negotiations with Fire District #6 to consolidate the district and our city fire department. This is a major step for our city and the district and certainly has its challenges. The challenges of consolidating a rural volunteer department with a city professional

staff department verge on amazing. To the credit of the district fire commissioners and the city council we continue to be moving forward.

Annexation is also on our horizon with a large industrial area to the south of the city. The process has gone through a first reading with the council. Second reading was put on hold while the city sought to work something out with the fire district. With progress being made on that front, the council has given direction to get the annexation back on track.

I could go on but this is already too long. Like everyone else in this great profession of ours, there is too much to do and not enough time or money to do it. Hope to see you all at Skamania Lodge at the end of the month.

From **Lacey**, city manager Greg Cuoio reports:

It appears world renowned outdoor equipment retailer Cabela's will locate one of its flagship stores in **Lacey** by the end of the year. Cabela's will anchor a planned 400-acre mixed-use town center project that eventually will include 4 million square feet of retail, commercial, office, medical service development and 2,500 residential units.

The store is expected to attract over 3 million visitors annually. In addition to a comprehensive line of hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, and general outdoor gear, the store will feature a 60,000 gallon walk through aquarium, an indoor archery range, restaurant, a conservation mountain with waterfalls and streams stocked with native fish, and museum quality dioramas depicting wildlife in natural environments.

The mixed use town center project has been a vision of the city council for nearly twenty years. It is a very positive addition to the city's local economy that, for years, has lagged in shopping opportunities and retail sales.

Residential development continues at an unprecedented pace placing significant pressures on infrastructure systems throughout the city. And, it shows in our capital budget which represents 55% of the total city budget! In addition to several transportation and utility projects, **Lacey** will initiate construction of a 100-acre regional athletic complex, a 25,000 square foot addition to city hall, and five major park improvements projects.

To help address water shortage challenges, **Lacey** is undertaking three important initiatives 1) construction of an \$8 million water treatment plant, 2) a system wide leak detection program, and 3) implementation of a reclaimed water utility that will utilize wastewater treated to Class A standards for irrigation purposes in rights-of-way, parks, and the 400-acre town center project mention above.

Two closing positive notes: A five year aggressive effort to rehabilitate our roads has paid off. Our 2006 pavement management report indicates that 90% of the city's streets are now rated as

being in good or very good condition. We closed the year with the overall, already low crime rate dropping 10%!

2007

Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties

Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas

lhalserson@ci.camamas.wa.us

Lloyd Halverson, city administrator, **Camas**, reports that this is a very brief report from your correspondent in the SW part of the state. Overall, the economy seems good, and the cities benefit when times prosper. The legislative session attracts some attention, and shows some achievements. Passage of the SST legislation must demonstrate something along the lines of “timing is everything”.

The cast of local government professionals in SW is rather stable. Of note are the appointments to continuing city manager positions of Dennis Osborn in **Battle Ground**, and Justin Clary in **Ridgefield**. Eric Holmes, formerly the **Battle Ground** city manager, accepted a position as manager of the firm MacKay & Sposito, a major engineering/planning firm with offices in **Vancouver, Olympia, Tri-Cities** and Wilsonville, Oregon. Your correspondent suspects Eric will someday return to public service. In **Ridgefield**, Justin’s work includes focus on the community’s future.

Other members of the cast toil with the usual challenges and enjoy the usual rewards. The cycle of the “odd year” elections approaches, and we shall see how that colors our local government scenes.

All the best!

Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties

Frank Sweet, City Supervisor, City of Selah

fsweet@elltel.net

In **Grandview**, Scott Staples, city administrator, tell us that everyone welcomes the arrival of spring.

A number of new initiatives are underway. Plans for a Leadership **Grandview** program are being finalized. The program will consist of a one day class from September to May for up to 20 persons, focusing on eight (8) different areas of community life. The purpose is to help create a cadre of residents to eventually assume leadership positions. **Yakima** Valley Community College is a primary sponsor.

The city has applied for a planning only grant from CTED to prepare a detailed downtown redevelopment plan. The city recently sold a key piece of property downtown, and a private developer has renovated the site for an espresso/deli shop, and an adjacent space for a banquet hall. Efforts continue with the University of Washington and **Yakima** Valley Community

College to secure federal funds to establish a business resource center either downtown or on the YVCC **Grandview** campus.

The city council has approved a process to conduct a comprehensive review of the city code, which is estimated to take approximately 4 years.

Grandview is one of several communities that are the subject of a paper prepared by a Whitman College student regarding at large council elections. The primary point of the study is that at large elections unfairly discriminate against ethnic groups, in this case Hispanics. In response to the study, the **Sunnyside** city council recently formed a committee to study the issue. It will be interesting to see how this plays out in various eastern Washington communities. Many suggest that the lack of representation on council is a function of individuals not running for office, not voting, or not being registered.

Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties

Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco

zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us

Growth generally continues at the historical trend in **Kennewick**, with about 400 permits for new homes / new businesses issued in CY2006 reports **Kennewick** city manager, Bob Hammond. Single family housing is trending down slightly with commercial trending up. The most recent expansion of the Columbia Center Mall added several new niche commercial retail shops (e.g., Coldwater Creek, Talbot's, and Chico's). We continue to depend on growth-related revenues to balance our budget. **Kennewick** along with the **Richland** is considering a proposal for major entertainment/recreation development of the west 120 acres of Columbia Park, which is an undeveloped park along the Columbia River, owned by the Corps of Engineers. The "Dollars for Deals" investigation by the FBI resulted in two indictments handed down, one to ex-**Kennewick** Assistant City Attorney Tyler Morris, the other a local defense attorney. This has resulted in proposed legislation regarding limitations on donations as disposition for certain court proceedings. **Kennewick** is working with the cities of **Pasco** and **Richland** to address needs for large regional facilities, like an aquatics center and performing arts center.

Richland is in the midst of its search to find his successor, reports city manager John Darrington. In January, John announced his plans to retire the first of June after 35 years in municipal government and more than 6 years in **Richland**. He and his wife, Susan, have accepted an invitation from the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to serve as president at one of its missions. As **Richland** prepares to transition to its seventh city manager, the city is enjoying what John calls its "renaissance" -- the results of more than a dozen years of dedicated efforts to diversify its economy. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, located in **Richland**, has nearly 4,200 employees, state-of-the-art facilities and contracts with Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security and the private sector to provide world-class research and product development. Washington State University Tri-Cities received four-year status from the State Legislature and Governor Chris Gregoire for fall 2007.

Bioproducts, Sciences and Engineering Laboratory, a PNNL/WSU-TC joint project, will offer researchers a platform to meld innovations in energy and agriculture. Expansion of **Richland's** Horn Rapids Golf Course Community continues. Businesses are sprouting and growing in the

Horn Rapids Industrial Park. Kadlec Medical Center is constructing a \$71 million, six-story tower that will add potentially 400 jobs and change Richland's skyline. Kadlec and Columbia Basin College partnered on the Health Science Center, which offers classes in phlebotomy, nursing, radiologic science, ultrasound and emergency response care. Design is nearly completed for a \$17.25 million renovation and expansion of the **Richland** public library. **Richland's** waterfront is thriving with more condominiums, mixed-use buildings, a boutique hotel and restaurant, all completed or planned for 2007. Hanford Reach National Monument Heritage and Visitor Center will anchor south Columbia Point and will showcase the area's history, science, art and conservation. Commercial development is occurring throughout **Richland**, enhancing **Richland's** retail sales tax base, and housing starts remain high, reports John. **Richland** continues to invest in parks, trails, open space and other quality of life improvements. John gives much of the credit to regional partnerships, state and federal funding, private investments, and **Richland's** "ingenuity and hard-nosed determination."

City administrator Mark Panther reports **West Richland** is moving forward with an aggressive economic development initiative. With the Red Mountain AVA on the city's doorstep, the opportunity for success has never been more attainable. Positive impacts include current construction of a wine manufacturing operation and other light industrial tenants at Red Mountain Industrial Park.

City plans include employing an economic development specialist to develop and administer economic development strategies. Additionally, city administrator Mark Panther recently announced the city's new planning and community development director, Bob Leedy, who has a long history in community development. Mr. Leedy will be a great addition to city staff and an asset to the entire community.

Economic development and public works employees will participate in the International Council of Shopping Centers Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May with the goal of attracting interest in a variety of properties currently available for development. It is a busy year with many opportunities for success!

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

Carl Thompson, city administrator of **Colfax**, reports that their major annexation of 1,128 acres of land has now been officially completed. The city is also working on its Mill Street project. All in all Carl reports that he is being kept more than busy in his new city administrator position.

John Sherman, city supervisor of **Pullman**, reports that it just doesn't get any better for an Oregon Duck living in Cougar country than when both schools get to "go dancing" during March Madness. Needless to say all the normal community issues and problems have been swept away

into a trivial status in the euphoria that has gripped the community as the Cougs get to go to the NCAA basketball tournament for the first time in well over a decade.

Aside from the only thing that matters at the moment, which is basketball, everything is going very well in **Pullman**. We ended 2006 with year-end savings that will allow us to address several of our capital project needs. Highway construction between **Pullman** and Moscow should get started up again soon now that the weather is improving. The project is slated to be completed this fall. We will also be undertaking an ambitious set of street repair projects within **Pullman**. We have completed our initial city council goal-setting retreat of the year and our busy addressing a full slate of issues including the recommendations of a College Hill study and a proposed nuisance ordinance revision. It is a busy and exciting time.

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

Ehman Sheldon, city administrator, **Othello**, sends the following:

New \$2.6 million dollar pool

The voters of the park and recreation function in the **Othello** area approved a 2.6 million bond for a new pool complex. The pool complex includes a zero depth entry, lap pool, lazy river, and slide pool. The Park and Recreation District contracted with the **Othello** to conduct project management and operate the pool for 20 years. If you're in the area stop by.

2007 **Othello** budget

The police department will receive two new cars this year, approximately \$60,000, and city hall will receive a new phone system, approximately \$40,000. Public works increased personnel by one and increased equipment with a new backhoe.

2007 projects

- \$500,000 in street projects, an increase of 50%
- \$206,000 Sewer extensions
- \$80,000 well improvements
- \$175,000 sidewalk improvements
- \$306,000 water line replacement

The mayor and council were very supportive of budget requests. **Othello** is growing and invites new business and developers.

Region 9, Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan Counties
Richard Brinkman, City Administrator, City of Leavenworth
cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com
David Fonfara, City Administrator, City of Chelan
dfonfara@nwi.net

From **Chelan**, Dave Fonfara, city administrator, reports the following:

Please accept my apologies for the delayed response to your e-mail. I was out of the office for a few days and came back to a deluge of activity. **Chelan** may be a small community but the place is a hot bed of development activity and interesting local politics. Unfortunately I won't be able to contribute to upcoming issue of WCMA News. I am planning on attending the spring conference at the Skamania Lodge and look forward to seeing you there.

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

Bellingham transmits the following:

Bellingham rates tops in green light bulb campaign

Bellinghamsters are demonstrating their environmental savvy by ranking among the top cities in the nation for purchases of energy-efficient light bulbs, according to recent light bulb sales tracked by organizers of 18Seconds.org.

The 18Seconds movement is aimed at getting Americans to replace electricity-wasting incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. The campaign -- named for the average time it takes to change a light bulb -- was launched Feb. 22 in California by a coalition of government agencies and private companies, including Yahoo Inc., Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Environmental Defense, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, U.S. mayors, retailers, religious organizations and conservation groups.

The campaign's goal is to increase awareness of energy-efficient light bulbs as a way to slow global climate change, organizers say. If every American swapped just one bulb, advocates say, the country could save \$8 billion in energy costs and eliminate 2 million cars worth of greenhouse gas emissions.

Bellingham receives Bicycle Friendly award

*Bellingham, Washington - **Bellingham** has received a Silver level Bicycle Friendly Community award from the League of American Bicyclists.*

The Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign is an awards program that recognizes municipalities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle-Friendly Community provides safe accommodation

for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation.

Application reviewers opened their comments by saying, "**Bellingham** is a community that is definitely headed in the right direction!" They were particularly impressed with **Bellingham's** trail projects and education program as well as ongoing efforts to promote bicycling including Bike to Work and School Day, the Commute Trip Reduction Program, the Port of **Bellingham** multi-modal transportation hub, and the TravelSmart Program. "These programs placed **Bellingham** securely as a Silver level community and one that is looking towards Gold," they added.

Bellingham joins fifteen cities, including San Francisco, Flagstaff and Milwaukee, that earned the Bicycle Friendly designation in 2006. League of American Bicyclists Executive Director Andy Clarke will be in **Bellingham** to present the award and suggest ways the community can further promote cycling.

Council Approves Ban on "Big-Box" Stores

On February 12, 2007, the city council approved a ban on large "big box" retail stores larger than 90,000 from the city. The city council also created strict design standards for retail establishments with more than 60,000 square feet of floor space. The new rules went into effect on February 27, 2007. Background information from the planning commission review of this high-profile regulatory debate is posted on the city's website at http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/land_use.htm.

City receives 6th consecutive financial reporting award

For the sixth year in a row, **Bellingham** has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in financial reporting.

"This award assures our citizens and bondholders that the city uses accurate and sound accounting and financial reporting practices," **Bellingham** Finance Director Therese Holm said.

Bellingham was recently honored the award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). For the sixth consecutive year, the city has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in recognition of its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for 2005.

Holm said the award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The annual financial report was judged by an impartial panel of GFOA members to meet the high standards of award achievement. These standards include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate financial status and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

Holm said the award is a factor that is considered by rating agencies when determining the city's bond rating. The city currently has a very favorable Aa3 bond rating from Moody's on its voted

debt and an A1 rating on non-voted debt. The strong bond ratings allow the city to repay bonds it issues at lower interest rates.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 15,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact the finance department at 676-6900. To view the 2005 annual report, go to www.cob.org/finance.

As world considers U.N. climate report, Bellingham applauded for pollution reduction

As a United Nations report draws international attention to global warming, **Bellingham** is gaining national attention for efforts already underway to curb pollution that causes the planet to warm.

Bellingham's purchase of 100 percent "green" power for all city operations places our community among the top green power purchasers in the nation, and, when combined with green power purchases by Western Washington University and **Whatcom County**, prevents nearly 34,000 tons of carbon dioxide pollution - the equivalent of taking 3,700 cars off of the road for the entire year.

Research shows that buying 100 percent green power is the most significant step **Bellingham** can take to protect the climate, eliminating more than 65 percent of the global warming pollution caused by municipal operations.

The city's purchase, approved by city council last summer and started in January, places **Bellingham** alongside Fortune 500 companies, national retailers, and U.S. cities from coast to coast that are taking a lead role in pollution prevention and climate protection.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced updated national Top 10 lists for various types of organizations purchasing green power. **Bellingham** ranks 7th among local governments, and is topped only by local governments serving larger populations. **Bellingham** is among the largest local governments in EPA's partnership to supply 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources. For more information on EPA's Top 10 local government list, visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top10localgov.htm>.

City officials expect many benefits from this purchase in addition to reducing its own pollution. It also displaces demand for conventional electricity and creates a greater market for development of additional green power sources, and helps raise awareness and encourages people in **Bellingham** to take similar actions in their homes and businesses.

"Scientific data clearly indicate that global warming will affect the lives of **Bellingham** residents in the future," **Bellingham** Mayor Tim Douglas said. "Sea elevation changes and protecting our drinking water supply are just two examples of the challenges that lie ahead. We need to take thoughtful, deliberate steps to help reduce our impacts on our planet. Purchasing green power is one of those steps."

With this purchase, the city joins Western Washington University as a national leader in climate

protection. Western Washington University is eighth on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of the nation's top 10 green energy purchasers in higher education.

The **Bellingham** city council voted unanimously in August 2006 to buy enough green power to supply 100 percent of the city's electrical usage beginning in January 2007. The city's purchase will amount to approximately 25 million kWh annually.

Bellingham city council member John Watts, referencing last week's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, said leading energy and climate experts say this latest report underscores the need for a massive effort to slow the pace of global warming.

"The city's purchase of renewable energy for 100 percent of its municipal electrical energy use strongly acknowledges our role in accepting responsibility for and addressing this global problem at a local level," Watts said. "We encourage each and every household to take similar action."

In 2005, **Bellingham** joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. This project begins with an inventory of municipal and community actions that contribute to global warming pollution, followed by the development of an action plan to reduce pollution from the various municipal and community sources. This research showed that buying 100 percent green power is the most significant step **Bellingham** can take to protect the climate, eliminating more than 65 percent of the global warming pollution caused by municipal operations.

From **Blaine** (actually from vacation), city manager Gary Tomsic sends the following:

Ron,

As I write, I am sitting on a tour bus in LA having just disembarked from a two week trip to Mexico. I will try to get some thing to you first thing tomorrow. Here is one response. (Which was the one from John McFarland).

Gary Tomsic

[Editor's note: Actually Gary put out a call for contributions just before he left. You can see that it was indeed successful. So perhaps the story has a moral: Go on vacation!]

Jon Aarstad, city administrator, reports that in 2005 **Burlington** contracted with Lewis Architect and Interior Design to complete two feasibility studies to determine the location, size and cost

estimates to construct a new public library and new city hall. The outcome of this study resulted in the decision by the mayor and city council to construct both facilities on existing city properties.

The 22,000 sq. ft. public library will be constructed in the primary residential area of **Burlington** near the existing “old” city hall that will be converted into a parks and recreation center. As a result of their familiarity with our community, the feasibility study and the Citizen Facility Planning Committee, Lewis Architect and Interior Design, Inc., was chosen to facilitate the

public facility design meetings and then to complete the design of the library. Library construction began in March of 2006 and will have a “soft” opening in May of 2007. The grand opening will be on June 16, 2007. Colacurcio Brothers of Blaine, Washington, was selected as the low bidder and has been a very positive partner in the construction of this public facility. The library includes several public meeting rooms, a 12 station computer training room; we have enhanced technology features throughout the building and several tutoring rooms.

The “new” city hall is also under construction at this moment and is located adjacent to our fire station, police station and municipal court facility to create a campus-like atmosphere to house the majority of city services. The city administration, legal, finance, planning, building and engineering departments will be housed in the new city hall and will all be in the same building for the first time in the history of **Burlington**. With the campus location we will be able to provide the public with a one stop service opportunity and not have to drive to several locations to complete their dealings with city staff. After interviewing several architectural firms Lewis Architect and Interior Design were also selected to conduct pre-design meetings with the public, our elected officials and city staff and then to complete the design for our new city hall facility. Construction bids were received in February of 2006 with Tiger Construction of Everson, Washington, submitting the low responsible bid. Construction began in April of 2006 with substantial completion scheduled for May 25, 2007. We anticipate that staff should move in by the end of June. No dedication date has been scheduled at this time.

Fortunately we received bids that were substantially below the architect’s estimates and our change orders for both buildings have been minimal due to the excellent working arrangement between the architect, contractor and city staff.

Burlington’s three main traffic entrances to our community are through Interstate 5 and State Route Highway 20. Because of the increasing congestion and failing level of service at these city entryway intersections, WSDOT and **Burlington** have entered into a partnership to complete a joint planning program and vicinity upgrade at each intersection. This partnership will result in enhancements to the entryways into our city and the reduction of traffic congestion that occurs daily. The initial effort will come to fruition in 2008 with the construction of a new intersection at I-5 and Hwy 20 leading to **Anacortes**. This road annually has been the source of many accidents and presents itself as a major traffic jam in the spring, summer and fall months for tourists traveling to and from the San Juan Islands who may be in stop and go traffic for several miles just to access I-5.

There's news from the land of the retired, specifically from John McFarland, retired city administrator of **Tukwila**, now claiming to be a grower of blueberries. Here on Whidbey Island, John says he has found his way on to the Port of South Whidbey Citizens' Advisory Committee. They are tasked with drafting a 6-year Strategic Plan. In addition, he has been working with a citizens' group exploring the possibility of incorporating the community of Freeland. While John and Linda don't live within the proposed boundaries, he says it's been fun working with the group. Many thanks to Stan Finkelstein, Mike McCormick and especially to Steve Anderson for

their helpful guidance. In between building a home, feeding chickens, boarding horses, beekeeping, blueberries, John reports that he has also been working with ClearPath LLC, a small economic development consulting firm in **Seattle**, assisting with municipal client activities. John says he's still looking forward to the "retired" phase. Maybe next year.

By way of Gary Tomsic, Ken Knight sends the following from **Sumas**:

Don't know if the news has made it your way or not, but I am no longer employed by **Sumas**. It was easier for the mayor to replace me than three long time employees. Apparently my charm and expertise was not welcomed in certain quarters. Don't know what I'm going to do at this point. I have a little time to think as I'm on paid administrative leave for the next 3 1/2 months.

Ken

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

From **Arlington**, Allen Johnson, city administrator, reports that **Arlington** will be starting Phase II of the North Olympic Ave. Reconstruction project in early April. Olympic Avenue is the main commercial district in downtown **Arlington**. The project involves the replacement of all the utility lines (water, sewer & storm), reconstruction of the road bed to remove a significant crown on the roadway, new curb, gutter, sidewalk, pavement, lighting, trees, and trash receptacles. The project has been a topic of conversation on and off since the mid 1980s, but was not constructed mainly for the cost and the impact on local businesses. The city council decided to bite the bullet and fund the \$4 million dollar project with councilmanic bonds in 2005. The first phase of the project, removing 8 underground storage tanks throughout the project area, was completed early and under budget in August 2006.

The council has been extremely concerned about the project's impacts on our downtown merchants, so our staff has gone the extra mile to be sure they were all well informed about the project and its possible impacts. In addition, we brought on a non-profit called Community Capital Development that has been working with our merchants on a variety of topics, including cash flow and marketing. University of Washington planning and architecture students have also

been helping with color schemes and façade improvements to give the downtown a defined identity.

On a completely different front, the city is working on a \$30 million venture to expand our wastewater treatment plant. This project has definitely been a challenge as we have moved through the DOE and DOH regulatory process, but we are expecting to receive our preliminary approval any day now, so design can begin.

From **Mukilteo**, city administrator Rich Leahy has moved on to **Woodinville** as their new city manager. Lee Walton has graciously agreed to fill in as interim until a new city administrator is hired. Larry Waters also recently joined the city as the new public works director. He previously served as public works director in **Mountlake Terrace**.

Also in **Mukilteo**, after over a decade of debate, city council decided on a location for a new city hall. The site, located on the corner of Harbour Point Boulevard South and Cyrus Way, was one of many locations considered. Design work is currently underway, and the city hopes to move into the new building in early 2009.

City Manager Larry Bauman of **Snohomish** reports that work on the city's "big dig" -- a four phase, \$14 million sewer trunk line project -- continues with the second of the four segments now under construction. A public works trust fund loan for the second and final \$7 million of the project has been approved and work toward final construction design is under way. Meanwhile, the city continues to work with the county and developers in studying a 350-acre extension to its northern urban growth area boundary at SR 9 and US 2.

In tourist-related news, the support is growing within the business community for the relocation of the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train. The proposed relocation would enable a route between **Woodinville** and **Snohomish** to allow continued operations of the train following track removal for the I-405 improvements that will sever current operations between **Renton** and **Woodinville**. A joint meeting between city and chamber officials of **Woodinville** and **Snohomish** was recently hosted in **Snohomish** to gather support for the project, which to continue in the interim requires a new lease to be offered to the Dinner Train from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. A three-party negotiation between BNSF, **King County** and the Port of **Seattle** continues with the aim of the port acquiring the rail rights of way and then exchanging those rights of way to **King County** in return for the Boeing Field **King County** International Airport.

Retired **Mountlake Terrace** police chief John Turner has joined the city as its interim police chief while recruitment continues. Likewise in the support services department, the retired **Edmonds** administrative services and finance director has joined the city as an interim director. Recruitment is also ongoing for a city economic development manager.

In January, the city council adopted the city's new strategic plan, developed as a result of a broad public involvement and with the highly capable assistance of Berk and Associates as consultants for the project. The plan, entitled "Imagine **Snohomish**: Promoting Vitality and Preserving Character," provides 5-, 10- and 20-year goals and action strategies supporting the city's growth, development and delivery of services. Final product is displayed on the city's web pages.

Region 12, North King County

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

mitch@clydehill.org

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Kenmore, by way of Steve Anderson, city manager, offers some good stuff:

City of Kenmore Purchases Property for New City Hall

At its February 26th meeting, the **Kenmore** city council authorized the city manager to negotiate and execute a purchase and sale agreement to acquire a site for city hall. The city council intends to purchase a 1.62 acre site located at 18120 68th Ave NE, currently owned as surplus property by the Northshore Utility District, for the appraised value of \$3.1 million. The city and Northshore Utility District will work cooperatively in the next 90 days to complete due diligence on the site and, with successful completion, close on the site 30 days later.

"Building a city hall on this site adds to the momentum being generated by the **Kenmore** Village by the lake project. It is another step in creating a vibrant downtown core in **Kenmore**," councilmember Laurie Sperry said.

At their February 2006 retreat, council directed staff to identify a site for a permanent city hall to replace the current interim facility. Using criteria developed by the planning commission for the downtown plan and then refined for this process by the council. Mr. Rob Larson of ClearPath was engaged to identify potential sites. Mr. Larson generated a list of 20 options, which council then reviewed and discussed over the course of a year before concluding that the utility district property met the criteria and the future needs of the city.

"Council consensus was to look outside of the downtown development for a site. We studied several locations in depth and I am excited that council consensus was to move forward on the purchase of the property," Mayor Randy Eastwood said.

The city will begin the selection process for an architect to design the city hall facility. Once selected, the design and permit process is estimated to take approximately nine to 12 months before construction could commence, with a projected move-in date of June 2009. The site has a current tenant, Full Maintenance Landscaping, which has an existing lease with Northshore Utility District.

Card Room Lawsuit Status

When the **Kenmore** city council adopted the card room ban in December 2005, the owner of the card room immediately filed suit in federal district court seeking, among other things, to prevent the enforcement of the ordinance. Since that time, the litigation has been winding its way through the judicial system and the card room has been allowed to remain in operation, pursuant to court order. Currently, the dispute is being considered at two levels, one in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and one in **King County** Superior Court. The city prevailed at the federal district court, and all of the card room owner's claims were dismissed. That decision has been appealed to the Ninth Circuit. In Superior Court, the city recently prevailed on the card room owner's motion for partial summary judgment regarding the gambling tax. The Ninth Circuit has not yet scheduled a date for hearing on the appeal. Trial in the Superior Court action is set

for March 2008. We understand that the city's card room ban will not be enforceable until such time as the courts have ruled on these matters or the cases are otherwise resolved.

Kenmore Village by the Lake

After hearing comments about the project from the community, the **Kenmore** city council and the downtown task force, **Kenmore** Partners have been busy incorporating those comments into the conceptual plan. Suggestions included providing more retail space and ensuring that there is enough parking. The **Kenmore** Partners team has met with all the current businesses to talk about their future plans and see if they are interested in relocating in the new project -- and if so, what size space they would like.

The team has also been meeting potential grocers, creating a schedule for the open space design process, sharing the retail strategy at a recent city council meeting and interviewing affordable housing developers.

Because of the city's requirement that 25 percent of the residential units at **Kenmore** Village by the Lake be affordable, the team has been interviewing developers of affordable housing to determine which group would be a good partner for this project. **Kenmore** Partners plan to introduce the chosen group at the March 26 city council meeting.

Details about the open space design process will be coming soon. Information will be available on both the city's web site (www.cityofkenmore.com) and the project web site (www.downtownkenmore.com).

SR 522 Improvement Projects to Begin in Spring Phase I

Kenmore has secured funding to complete several improvements to the SR-522 (Bothell Way) corridor. The goal of these improvements is to ease congestion in the corridor through **Kenmore**, increase pedestrian and vehicular safety, improve the appearance of the corridor and improve the function of the major intersections within the city. The city has received over \$8

million in state and federal grant funds and contributions from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and **King County**. The total cost of these improvements will exceed \$20 million and the city continues to pursue additional funding to complete the entire project

The proposed improvements include:

- The realignment of the 61st Ave. NE and SR-522 intersection.
- Modifications to the intersection of 65th Ave. NE and SR-522
- Modifications to the intersection of 68th Ave. NE and SR-522

- The realignment of the two intersections at NE 181st St and 68th Ave NE into a single intersection
- The realignment of the intersection of 73rd Ave. NE and SR-522
- Construction of an underpass for the Burke-Gilman Trail at 73rd Ave. NE
- The installation of landscaped medians on SR-522 between 60th Ave. NE and 73rd Ave. NE
- The improvement of 68th Ave. NE from NE 175th to NE 185th Street
- The addition of landscaping and sidewalks at several locations in the corridor.

Phase II

The purpose of the SR522 Phase II project is to improve safety, circulation and operation of automobile, transit, and non-motorized users of the roadway corridor. Phase II will extend the SR522 business and transit (BAT) lane system from 73rd Avenue NE to the eastern city limits. The project is in the city's 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and has received over \$3 million in state, federal and Sound Transit funds.

The proposed improvements include:

- Widen roadway for Business and Transit (BAT) lanes from 73rd Avenue NE through 83rd Avenue NE
- Improvements to 80th Avenue NE north of SR522
- Installation of a traffic signal at the entrance to **Kenmore** Lanes

- Installation of medians and access management improvements between 73rd Avenue NE and the eastern **Kenmore** city limits
- Installation of a traffic signal at 83rd Place NE
- Replacement of the SR522 Swamp Creek Bridge

Marilynne Beard, assistant city manager, **Kirkland**, sends the following:

Kirkland Goes Green (or An Inconvenient Truth Meets St. Patrick's Day)

Like many cities, **Kirkland** is stepping up its environmental sustainability efforts. Not only is this a priority for the city council, but our staff has taken initiatives beyond the goals and activities planned for this biennium. Over the past year, our public works department has worked toward a greener fleet, purchasing hybrid vehicles whenever possible, an electric vehicle which is now used by our water meter reader and two motor scooters available to staff for short

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trips around town. A group of employees have begun meeting voluntarily at lunchtime to brainstorm ways to increase sustainable techniques and materials throughout city operations.

This year the city is teaming up with the **Kirkland** Chamber of Commerce to sponsor “Sustainable September,” a month-long series of events profiling our green businesses and offering educational activities and community events and projects to highlight green practices for both businesses and residents. We also continue to benefit from a private sponsor by working with the Cascade Land Conservancy to organize monthly ivy pulls in an effort to remove non-native invasive vegetation from our open spaces.

Kirkland is fortunate to have been able to maintain significant green spaces in the city, many of which have been preserved as wildlife habitats. Our green spaces and our 5.6 miles of shoreline, much of which is public park land, give us all the more reason to make environmental stewardship and sustainability priorities for everyone in the community.

Jack Collins, one of us for many years, has sent the following message:

Dear friends and colleagues,

After 37 years of extremely rewarding “service to local government”, as the ICMA award notes, I have recently chosen to call it a day and pursue other interests.

My passion for public service and government began in the early 1950's in a high school civics class and was confirmed at my first ICMA Annual Conference in 1962. Since then I have had a truly rewarding and varied career, full of memorable people and experiences in cities big and small—believe me when I say, it is not easy to leave something I have loved for as long as I have loved our profession.

After buying an all-electric car three years ago, I had been thinking that in my dotage I would like to try to do something to help the environment. I was pushed over the edge by Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth" as well as by WCMA President Malcolm Fleming's piece about global warming in the August WCMA newsletter.

Starting January 2, I will be the part-time Executive Director of Clean Air Northwest (CAN), a new, private non-profit put together by a team of air quality professionals from national, tribal, state and local governments in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Indian Country and British Columbia.

CAN's primary tasks, as adopted by our Board are to:

- collaboratively galvanize support, including funding and people to improve air quality in our region,
- provide education about the importance of clean air to protect health and the environment,

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- provide a forum for addressing air quality priorities, and
- support air quality projects and the advancement of air quality science and technology.

I have promised my wife of forty-five years, Sharon, and my sons, Chris and Todd, that I will not work more than twenty hours a week at this, so I picture finding a ton of public and foundation grant money and hiring a bunch of (younger) city management types to help me help clean up our regional air. Please let me know if this is you. My e-mail address after January 1 will be: jcollins@cleanairnw.org, although the old one (jackcollins@nwscs.org) will work for the foreseeable future as well.

Thank you all for your support and your friendship over the years. And best of luck as you carry on our noble profession.

Fare well,

Jack Collins

From **Seattle**, Bill Schrier, chief technology officer, sends the following:

"As part of lessons learned from the December windstorm, Mayor Greg Nickels of **Seattle** has proposed implementing 311 -- a single number for **Seattle** residents to call for most or all non-emergency services. A 311 service has been successfully implemented in cities such as New York City and Denver. It would primarily be useful during normal city business, to replace most of the more than 200 non-emergency numbers found in the phone book blue pages for **Seattle** alone. This would be a fundamental change to the way any city "does business" with constituents. A feasibility study and report will be delivered to the mayor in early summer."

Bill indicates that if you want more information, he can be reached as follows:

- Phone: 206.684.0633
- Cell: 206.255.2156
- Fax: 206.684.0911
- E-mail: Bill.Schrier@Seattle.Gov

The report from **Shoreline** comes to us from Bernard Seeger, management analyst.

The first mile of the **Shoreline's** Aurora Corridor Improvement project from 145th to 165th Streets is very close to being completed and the results are just fantastic. Undergrounding of utilities, new sidewalks, landscaped medians, a new business and transit lane in each direction, and 2 new pedestrian bridges connecting the Interurban Trail from the city's southern to northern boundary were built in this project. We encourage all members to take a cruise next time you're in the area. The face of Aurora is changing and we are very proud of the city's contributions to this renewal.

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In other news, **Shoreline** recently hired a new public works director, Mark Relph, from Grand Junction, Colorado. Mark has an MPA and served as Grand Junction's public works director for the past eight years; we are excited to have him as a new member of our team.

Finally, **Shoreline** is moving steadily to complete the 10 plus projects approved by the citizens in the city's first ever parks bond initiative. To date the city has completed 2 separate open space purchases, and has begun planning for several other projects such as comprehensive improvements to the city's ocean front Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, field turf at Twin Ponds park, and athletic field improvements to Cromwell Park. The weather events continue to challenge us but we are looking forward to seeing you all at the spring conference.

Joni Earl, executive director **Sound Transit**, sends the following:

We are busy at **Sound Transit** building projects and delivering bus and train service in **King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties**. For the first time, we surpassed the 12 million mark for ridership by serving 12.2 m people in 2006. We carry about 44,000 people per day around the region. That's an overall increase of about 9%. Our Central Link light rail construction project remains on schedule to open the first 14 miles for passenger service in July 2009 and extends to **Sea-Tac** airport by the end of 2009. Building a 15.7 mile linear project with 2 tunnels, 5 miles of elevated guideway and surface construction remains challenging, invigorating and exciting. (There is not enough room to write about the challenges.) Hopefully, many of you have seen the very visible construction by the airport and along I-5.

While building the Sound Move plan from 1996, we are also working on a joint Roads and Transit Plan for the November 2007 ballot. The draft plan (ST2) includes 40 plus miles of light rail extensions north to **Lynnwood**, south to Port of **Tacoma/Fife** area and east across I-90 to

Bellevue, Overlake, and hopefully **Redmond**, along with improvements for access to our bus and commuter rail systems. Our partner, the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) has a draft plan called, “Blue Print for Progress”, which outlines the companion road investments. So, we are firmly planted in the present and the future all at the same time. Public comment closes at the end of the month, and we expect the **Sound Transit** Board to adopt a final plan around the end of April.

Never a dull day at **Sound Transit**!

Region 13, South King County

Joyce Papke, Assistant City Manager, City of Normandy Park

joycep@ci.normandy-park.wa.us

Derek Matheson, **Covington’s** city manager for only 13 days when he sent in this report, is spending most of his time in meetings with council members, staff, business leaders, community leaders, and others in an effort to understand **Covington’s** issues better. Development continues to be the biggest challenge (and opportunity!), with a Costco, Home Depot, and other major

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private development projects in the permit pipeline. The city hopes the sales tax revenue from these projects -- as well as streamlined sales tax -- will help it address pressing budget issues like the need to grow its reserve funds, add police officers, fund a street overlay program, and rebuild a parks and recreation program that has suffered major cuts following the defeat of two ballot measures in as many years. The city is also preparing for the first bond issue in its 10-year history, which will construct a number of transportation projects, especially in the downtown area.

From **Issaquah**, Leon Kos, city administrator, sends these words of wisdom:

Nothing happening in **Issaquah** again. I am thinking about my next vacation.

[Editor’s note: I know if you believe that, he definitely has a bridge he wants to sell you! The sale, of course, would be on behalf of **Issaquah**. At least it wasn’t the usual “I move we adjourn”. I DO believe the last half, by the way.]

From **Normandy Park**, city manager Doug Schultz reports that transitioning from **Medina** to **Normandy Park** is going very well and I’ve really appreciated the warm welcome from neighboring colleagues in SW **King County**. The heavy rains in November and the December windstorm consumed a significant amount of time and provided an opportunity for me to personally meet many **Normandy Park** residents. The December windstorm also provided a good test of the city’s emergency preparedness capabilities and needs. On January 2, 2007, a public meeting was held to provide an “after action report” and receive public input regarding what worked well and not so well. Improving the city’s emergency preparedness plans and capabilities will be a priority over the next one to two years. Fortunately, **Normandy Park** has

partnered with the cities of **Burien**, **Des Moines** and **SeaTac** to fund a full-time emergency preparedness coordinator, who will be responsible for much of the work that needs to be completed.

City staff is also busy with the 1st Avenue South economic redevelopment plan, which was accepted by the city council in September 2004. Within the next four months, **Normandy Park** Towne Center will be completed. The Towne Center includes 54,000 square feet of retail space on a 3.5 acre site, which was previously a 1960's era retail center that had fallen into disrepair. The new Towne Center will include a health club, shops, eateries and other businesses. A slightly smaller project adjacent to **Normandy Park** Towne Center is also scheduled to be completed by mid-2007, which will have close to 35,000 square feet of retail space. The city is in the early stages of planning and design of a multi-modal street improvement along an eight-block section of 1st Avenue South, with construction planned in 2008.

From **Renton**, chief administrative officer Jay Covington reports:

“I'm managing to stay busy here in **Renton**.”

Renton Sonics?? -- In **Renton** we are deep into the analysis of whether the proposed "**King County** Event Center" (aka Sonics/Storm arena) makes economic sense for the city to invest in

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it. The proposed 820,000 sq ft center would house the offices and practice facilities for the Sonics and Storm organizations, as well as a number of conference rooms and meeting facilities. The arena's capacity would be around 18,500, and is projected to host 200-210 events per year. In addition to defining the obvious local impacts (traffic, security, neighborhood), determining specific local and regional economic benefits is the first order of business for our consultants. I told the council I'm not even sure I know what questions to ask, let alone whether the answers I get are accurate.

The event center must receive legislative approval from **Olympia** to extend the current package of taxes levied in **King County** for Safeco and Quest Fields. Assuming that happens, the **King County** council will almost certainly require a public vote, which will likely happen in August. If the vote is positive, then **Renton** will have to determine whether there is justification for a local investment in the arena. We have consistently stated that any investment by the city will have to come from revenues generated by the arena.

The Landing -- Adjacent to the property reserved for the arena, we worked a deal whereby we construct \$33 million in roads and infrastructure, and private developers are constructing 600,000 sq ft of retail stores, restaurants and a theater, as well as a 900 multi-family housing development. The site is next to Fry's electronics on land Boeing vacated in 2005. This little development has taken much of the last three years of my life. Stores are scheduled to begin opening in October of this year.

Annexations and Elections -- Last November a member of the city council and the incumbent mayor announced their intent to run for the mayor's office this November, so they've been in full

campaign mode for almost four months now (read "make no controversial decisions, and avoid decisions if at all possible). Four members of the city council have endorsed the mayor's challenger. My mantra at every meeting I have with any council member or the mayor is that I understand they need to do whatever they need to do for their campaigns, but I plead with them to not jeopardize the future of **Renton** in doing so. In this decision avoidance atmosphere, we will have an annexation election this fall that includes 17,000 potential residents. The council is supportive, as long as none of the potential residents voices their opposition. (If any of you know how to pull that off, give me a call.)

On the brighter side, over the past two years, I have replaced six of the ten positions that directly report to me: my finance director, police and fire chiefs, community services (park/rec/facilities) director, communications director and assistant CAO. I have an outstanding management team that are rolling pretty well with the political uncertainties, and positioning **Renton** for even greater things in the future. I am finishing up my 17th year here in **Renton**. I think that puts me behind Leon Kos, Dick Zais, Joe Gavinski, John Sherman, Greg Cuoio, Lloyd Halverson and Mitch Wasserman in the longevity game. Who did I forget??

From **SeaTac**, city manager Craig Ward reports:

Voters Uphold Ban on Fireworks -- Proposition No. 1 went before the **SeaTac** citizens in the February 6, 2007, **King County** special election. This measure was brought forward per an

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initiative petition signed by **SeaTac** voters through the initiative and referendum powers granted to the voters by **SeaTac** Municipal Code (SMC) 1.10.040. This proposed measure would have repealed **SeaTac's** current ban on fireworks and replaced it with an ordinance allowing the sale and discharge of fireworks on certain dates and times throughout the year. According to the **King County** elections division, the proposition did not pass. Therefore, the current ordinance remains in effect, which bans fireworks except for displays authorized by permit.

New Fire Station -- In spring 2006, the city council authorized the replacement of existing fire station 46 located at 3521 S.170th Street. The project will be funded from savings in existing city funds. Headquarters, the emergency command center, and a centralized training room will be located at this station. The building will be 16,000 square feet and will eventually house the existing fire engine and a new ladder truck.

Station Area Planning -- In anticipation of the completion of the two **Sound Transit** Link Light Rail stations which will serve **SeaTac** starting in 2009 (the **Tukwila** International Boulevard Station at S. 154th St. & International Blvd. and the **SeaTac**/Airport Station at S. 176th St. & International Blvd.), the city has developed station area action plans. The South 154th Street and **SeaTac**/Airport station area action plans present visions for new "people-oriented" neighborhoods that include new housing, retail services and job opportunities within walking distance of the stations. The plans also include a series of recommendations that will help foster the redevelopment of the two station areas.

Automated Red Light Photo Enforcement: Focus On Safety -- The Washington state legislature recently enacted enabling legislation for municipalities to enact their own automated photo enforcement programs. Automated photo enforcement has been proven to be successful in lowering accident rates in cities that employ the technology, and specifically lowering serious intersection accidents. **SeaTac** began looking into this program in 2005; after much research the city selected Redflex Traffic Systems Inc. to provide the solution. Redflex will provide a turnkey photo red light enforcement program to the city. Installation is underway, along with public education regarding the program.

New Police Chief Selected -- After serving as **SeaTac's** police chief for two years, Greg Dymerski was promoted by the **King County** sheriff's office to chief of the criminal investigation division. James Graddon was selected as the new chief. **SeaTac** contracts with the **King County** sheriff's office for law enforcement services and was provided with a pool of three candidates, all captains in the sheriff's office. City manager Craig Ward selected Graddon after conducting interviews with the candidates and consulting with the city council.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Third Runway Update -- The port celebrated a milestone in the construction of **Seattle-Tacoma** International Airport's third runway project last fall. Crews placed the last load of dirt on the embankment that will support the new all-weather runway. Trucks had been hauling dirt to the site for the last three years. The next step is for crews to start pouring concrete for the 8,500-foot long runway soon.

Region 14, Pierce County
Rob Karlinsey, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
karlinseyr@cityofgigharbor.net

Don Morrison, city administrator, **Bonney Lake**, sends the following:

Bonney Lake is busy trying to redevelop its "downtown" (original commercial area). The mayor and council are very entrepreneurial and we are engaged in a variety of land acquisitions and joint development deals. The downtown has been pegged as a new future civic center (city hall was constructed in the early 1970s when we had 4200 residents and 40 employees -- today we have 120 employees and 16,000 residents -- and the same city hall). The council also imposed a temporary moratorium on permit applications in the downtown core until new design guidelines and other code amendments are in place.

The city has created a community services department which includes a new "311" customer service line and citizen service request tracking system (Eden System module).

Bonney Lake has proposed an interlocal agreement to the county to jointly fund an annexation and service study of the comprehensive urban growth area (CUGA) on our southern boarder. There are roughly 11,000 people in the proposed study area, and various projects in the pipeline

for an additional 12,000+ new homes over the next few years. In conjunction with that, we are beginning to study membrane plant technology for sewage treatment.

Rob Karlinsey, city administrator, **Gig Harbor**, reports that the two main issues at the forefront for **Gig Harbor** are commercial/residential growth combined with keeping up with infrastructure needs and financing. Growth in and around the GH North Burnham SR16 freeway interchange is experiencing a de facto moratorium because of concurrency (lack thereof) at the interchange. The city is working with the state, county, and developers to fix the \$60 million problem. Being sales tax rich isn't all that it's cracked up to be!

Gig Harbor is also working on plans to expand its wastewater treatment plant as well as expand and extend its main sewer outfall from the Harbor out into the Sound. Meanwhile, a new YMCA is scheduled to open in August. A new Costco will break ground in a month, and, last but not least, **Gig Harbor's** newest retail development, "Uptown", (including a new state of the art movie theatre) is scheduled to open by year's end. The second narrows bridge is scheduled for completion this August, and the state is planning a grand opening celebration that will include a 5k fun run on the new bridge, entertainment, and multiple ribbon cutting ceremonies. The state legislature is also being lobbied for permanent decorative lights spanning the main cables on both bridges!

From **Sumner**, city administrator John Doan reports that **Sumner** is adjusting to the contractual consolidation with East Pierce Fire and Rescue (District 22) for the provision of fire and emergency services. On January 1, the city's work force was reduced from 142 to 118 with the contract implementation. The change is the culmination of two years of study, difficult policy

discussion, planning, and negotiation. Everyone seems very happy with the consolidation and it was achieved with no public opposition.

Sumner is continuing with an initiative called "*Building Community*Driving for Excellence*" where we have developed a corporate mission, vision and values. We have also focused the council on long-term strategic direction which is being followed with goals, strategies, and performance measures. At the departmental level, departments are incrementally developing business plans which guide the future resources, seek operational efficiencies, and present a framework for annual workplans. The city has recently reviewed the future of the municipal court through the business planning process. We will be retaining our court and seeking efficiencies through staffing changes, training, and technology.

While the pace of development that has funded much of **Sumner's** investment in buildings and facilities is slowing, there are several large developments on the horizon for consideration. Major issues are transportation, long-term financial stability, downtown revitalization, and long-term land use planning at the fringe of the city (primarily in the unincorporated county).

From **Lakewood**, Andrew Neiditz, city manager, reports that the city is in the final design stages for its new police headquarters, a \$12 million project to be built on city-owned property

adjacent to the **Lakewood** Industrial Park. The building will be about 40,000 square feet and will consolidate the existing four separate office locations and the lease of the old sheriff's precinct. It will be completed in mid-2008.

For the second year, **Lakewood** was awarded the status as "One of America's 100 Best Communities" for young people, by the America's Promise program in Washington DC. **Lakewood** has an active "**Lakewood's** Promise" program to provide support and mentorship to our youth.

Lakewood has completed a feasibility study regarding annexing McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis as a means of financing the purchase of land and/or development rights that are in the "clear zone" and thus encroaching on McChord. The city is coordinating efforts with **Pierce County** and our neighboring cities to determine what level of support there is to resolve a serious regional challenge -- i.e., the potential closure or realignment of the bases by BRAC due to encroachment.

The city is about to run its fourth "**Lakewood University**" program, a two-evening (8 hour) curriculum which presents a "city government 101 class" to our citizens. Andrew reports that they have averaged about 60 attendees at each session, and each participant receives a diploma showing that they've graduated from the program.

The mechanics of WCMA News

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 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 19, No. 1, March 2007, 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.

Ron Bartels, editor
WCMA News

In Memoriam

Erling Mork, who was city manager of Tacoma for a considerable time, passed away at his home on January 9, 2007. He had been a real leader in WCMA and ICMA. A number of members have related stories of receiving valued mentoring from him. The City of Tacoma council declared by proclamation that January 24, 2007, be recognized as Erling Mork Day in that city.

Transitions

Candice Bock, formerly government relations director of Lakewood, has been named the city manager of Carnation.

Jack Collins has announced that he is now the part-time executive director of a new, private, non-profit organization, Clean Air Northwest (CAN).

Justin Clary is the new city manager of Ridgefield.

Roger Crum has been serving as interim city manager of Medina.

John Darrington has announced that he will retire as city manager of Richland on or about June 1, 2007. John has been asked to serve a three year term as the president of an LDS (Mormon) mission in an English speaking country after he retires. Afterward, he intends to return to his home in Richland.

Connie Fessler , former city manager of Mountlake Terrace, has been serving as interim city manager of Woodinville.

Nancy Buonanno Grennan is the new Kitsap County administrator replacing Cris Gears.

Karen Haines, former city administrator of Lake Forest Park, is now the business manager of Holden Village, halfway up Lake Chelan. She has entered into a three year agreement for the position. Karen's husband, Paul Haines, former public works director of Shoreline, is now the public works manager of Holden Village, also under a three year agreement.

Jim Jones is the new Clallam County administrator replacing Dan Engelbertson.

Rick Kirkwood, presently city manager of Woodland, California, and former city manager of Bothell, has announced that he will retire April 30, 2007. He has retained his WCMA membership after leaving Bothell.

Deborah Knight, former assistant to the city manager of Woodinville, is now the city administrator of Sultan.

Ken Knight and Sumas have parted company.

Richard Leahy, who has been serving as city administrator of Mukilteo, became city manager of Woodinville effective March 1.

Bill Malinen, formerly city administrator in Lynnwood, has been appointed city manager of Roseville, Minnesota.

Derek Matheson, who has been assistant city manager of Federal Way, has been named the new city manager of Covington.

Stan McNutt, rangerider, reports that he is once again having his hand in the business as interim county administrator for Blaine County, Idaho. Blaine County, Idaho, is making a move to have a county administrator.

Busse Nutley has been appointed city administrator of McCleary.

Diana Quinn is now the city administrator of Everson. She also serves as clerk-treasurer.

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

Mark Weinberg has been named as the new city manager of Medina. He recently retired as city administrator of Inglewood, California.

Martha Wine has been appointed assistant chief administrative officer of Renton.

WCMA Officers and Board Members

President	Duane Cole, City Manager, Walla Walla (509) 527-4522 dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us
Vice President	Andrew Neiditz, City Manager, Lakewood (253) 589-2489 aneiditz@cityoflakewood.us
Past President	Malcolm Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Bellingham (360) 676-6979 malcolm@cob.org
Secretary-Treasurer	Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC (206) 625-1300 ryukubousky@mrsc.org

Board of Directors

(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

(2006-2008)

Charlie Bush, Assistant to the City Manager, Bellevue
(425) 452-6837 CBush@bellevuewa.gov

Pat McDonnell, City Manager, Vancouver
(360) 696-8121 pat.mcdonnell@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Ex Officio members

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

Bob Jean, City Manager, University Place and Regional Vice President, ICMA
(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

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

2008 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference**, March 11 -- 14, 2008, Salishan Lodge & Resort, Gleneden Beach (near Newport), Oregon
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 17 -- 20, 2008, Yakima, Washington (AWC 75th Anniversary -- and it all started in Yakima!)
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, August, to be announced
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, September 19 -- 24, 2008, Richmond, Virginia

2009 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference**, to be announced
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 23 -- 26, 2009, Spokane, Washington
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, to be announced

- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference**, September 11 -- 16, 2009, Montréal, Québec, Canada

2010 Calendar

- **Northwest Management Conference**, to be announced
- **Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference**, June 22 -- 25, 2010, Vancouver, Washington
- **Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA) Summer Conference**, to be announced

- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference, October 17 -- 20, 2010, San Jose/Santa Clara County, California**

WCMA News is a publication of the Washington City/County Management Association. President, Duane Cole
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