



# WCMA News

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Volume 19, No. 2, August 2007

## President's Message

The hottest part of the summer in Walla Walla has mostly passed and early in the morning during August one can smell fall in the air. The fields have turned from the luscious green in the spring to the brown of wheat harvest time. During the evening there is a tinge of smoke from distant forest fires. The grapes are ripening quickly now and crush is just a few days away. It is nearly time for the WCMA Summer Conference here in Walla Walla on August 14 through 17.

As I prepare myself to turn the organization over to the fantastic Andrew Neiditz, I am reminded of the wonderful time I have had serving as President of WCMA. The conferences have been lots of fun. Signing the agreement with our friends from Poland was a high point. Working on the Walla Walla entertainment part of the conference has been fun. Checking into the possibility of studying the infrastructure needs of cities and counties in partnership with the AWC further strengthens the Managers' and Administrators' role as good advisors. Most importantly, the hard work and guidance of the Board has made my job easy. Thanks to each of you for your willingness to serve.

A major commitment was made during my tenure and it was my privilege to sign the letter requesting that ICMA bring the International Conference to Seattle in 2015. Many of the Board members were smiling when we agreed to host the Conference – John Darrington possibly most of all – with the not so subtle knowledge that most of the Board members will be retired by 2015. But we all made a commitment to return from whatever we are doing to assist with the Conference? The Conference has not been in Seattle since 1975 and it is past time for this great state to host it. Now we begin the real work of fund raising for the Host Committee responsibilities.

**SEE YOU IN WALLA WALLA!**  
**2007 WCMA Summer Conference    August 14**  
**– 17, 2007**  
**The Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla, WA**

I am looking forward to the coming year. Andrew Neiditz will be a great President and I really owe the successes I have had to him. He tackled the Conferences in the spring and summer with great energy, insight and thoroughness. Thanks Andrew. Malcolm Fleming, now of Louisville, Colorado, was a great mentor. I asked him to put together the Nomination process for the Board. It was a good solid process which will assure the balanced and energetic leadership WCMA needs.

The Conference in Walla Walla is almost here. Andrew has done a great job lining up an excellent program and the entertainment will provide a good time.

See you in Walla Walla,

Duane Cole, WCMA President  
City Manager, Walla Walla  
[dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto: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**

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## 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 and/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,

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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](mailto:dknutson@mrsc.org), or to me at [rbartels@mrsc.org](mailto:rbartels@mrsc.org).

Ron Bartels, editor  
WCMA News

## And now, the news:

*Region 1, Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties*

*Lynn Nordby, Consultant*

[lknordby@msn.com](mailto:lknordby@msn.com)

From **Bainbridge Island**, city administrator Mary Jo Briggs who has served the city since July 2004 has announced her resignation, effective January 31, 2008. Mary Jo cited the ongoing tension between the council and the administration as her primary reason for resigning. As she said, "I thought long and hard about it, but it really came down to the inability of the city council and the administration to work together in a collegial and productive manner."

Mary Jo succeeded Lee Walton, who served as interim city administrator for approximately a year following the retirement of Lynn Nordby, this island's first city administrator.

Lynn Nordby, honorary life member, is currently "in transition". Lynn has been a principal consultant with MuniFinancial since retiring from public administration in 2003. The firm decided to close their Washington office.

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

*Mike McCarty, Assistant Director, Operations and Services, AWC*

[mikem@awcnet.org](mailto:mikem@awcnet.org)

**Centralia** sends the following report:

**Centralia** and **Chehalis** have joined forces and formed the **Centralia/Chehalis** Transportation Cooperative for the purpose of collectively resolving challenges pertaining to the I-5 corridor and related transportation issues. The I-5 corridor is significant to not only the economic vitality of **Centralia** and **Chehalis**, but also to greater **Lewis County** and the State of Washington. The Transportation Cooperative will be engaged in **Lewis County's** county-wide transportation planning efforts. In addition, it will seek funding from state and federal governments, as well as other sources, to implement transportation solutions.

A new group – the **Centralia Downtown Association (CDA)** -- was recently formed to bring

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more people downtown. The CDA has already started working on plans to continue revitalization of the historic downtown and anticipates becoming a “Main Street” downtown. The group’s first project -- a “walk and shop” map of the focus area -- is completed and available at downtown and tourist locations.

The **Centralia** fire department/**Lewis County** fire district #12 has been awarded \$389,000 from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and support equipment. The grant award process favored fire agencies that operate with a high level of interagency cooperation to attain interoperability, safety, and efficiency.

This grant application was a cooperative effort by the city of **Centralia/Lewis County** fire district #12, **Chehalis** fire department, and **Lewis County** fire district #6 department, for a total grant award of \$706,000. Ultimately, the acquisition of the equipment will provide a higher level of service and safety, thus improving emergency response efficiencies between the agencies. In addition, the participating departments will be utilizing the same SCBAs which will allow for standardization and interoperability at the scene of an emergency.

**Centralia** reports “We’ve Got Our Mojo Working” and that they were invited to participate in a special piece of Mariners Opening Day history and gladly accepted by being part of the first pitch ball tour. The Mariners have the largest geographic market in Major League Baseball and **Centralia** is happy to have a piece of the ball club in their city. The ball traveled to many cities in the Pacific Northwest and photos from each city, including **Centralia**, were shown on the large screen at Safeco Field on opening day (April 2<sup>nd</sup>).

One of us, Vernon Stoner, has once again changed locations as a place to work. He was formerly the regional director, region 3, for the Department of Labor & Industries. He was recently promoted to deputy director, operations. The L&I internal newsletter contained the following story:

June 6, 2007

### **L&I names Vernon Stoner deputy director for operations**

**TUMWATER** — Vernon Stoner, a former deputy chief executive officer for Sound Transit and formerly the city manager in **Vancouver** and **Lacey**, today was named deputy director for operations at the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I).

“Vernon is a great addition to L&I’s management team because of his wealth of experience and his strengths in leadership, budgeting, strategic planning and intergovernmental and community relations,” said L&I Director Judy Schurke, who made the appointment.

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The deputy director position has been vacant since Schurke was promoted from the position in October to be acting director of L&I and then, in March, to be L&I's permanent director. The deputy position is responsible for the agency's administrative services division, information services program, human resources office and management consulting program.

Stoner most recently has been administrator for L&I's Region 3 in **Tacoma**, a position he has held since August 2006. He formerly served for five years as deputy chief executive officer with Sound Transit in **Seattle**. He was city manager in **Vancouver**, Wash., from 1996 to 2000; commissioner of the Washington State Employment Security Department from 1991 to 1996; city manager in Saginaw, Mich., from 1987 to 1991; and city manager in **Lacey** from 1981 to 1987.

Stoner has been active in civic and community organizations, including serving as president of the Washington City Management Association and the National Forum of Black Administrators.

*Region 3, Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties*  
*Lloyd Halverson, City Administrator, City of Camas*  
[lhalverson@ci.camass.wa.us](mailto:lhalverson@ci.camass.wa.us)

John Williams has been hired as **Battle Ground's** deputy city manager. Welcome, John!

And here's the message from **Camas**;

### **Notes from a "Best Place"—Summer 2007**

Greetings, WCMA members.

These greetings and notes go out as August begins, the days shorten, and the Mariners compete. Since it is an "odd year", these are signs of the approach of budget, and the "silly season" is upon us as well.

We greet you from **Camas**, a community which Money Magazine recently selected as one of the one hundred best places in America. The ratings were for communities of between 7,500 and 50,000 population, and the criteria included economic and quality of life indicators. In the Northwest, six places ranked in the top 100 -- selected from a field of 2,700+ possible places of this population range. The NW six were (with ratings): Oregon: **Lake Oswego** (32): and **Sherwood** (14)  
Washington: Silverdale (99); **Mukilteo** (69); **Camas** (63) and **Sammamish** (11).

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Congratulations to the places which made the “Best List”! For more information on the detailed criteria and ratings, go to <http://money.cnn.com/>. Personally, after analyzing all the data, I’m convinced that if they would just de-emphasize “number of sunny days” in the ratings matrix, that **Camas** would be number 8. If you are a data wonk, you can really work the data and your community’s profile.

The Money Magazine rating and related media all lead to substantial local pride and sloganeering. Despite best efforts, we just haven’t stumbled upon a good slogan yet. We’ve tried: “*We’re Number 63!*”. Somehow it just doesn’t work well.

So, what else? The budget process is beginning, and it looks rather stable. The underlying economy looks strong; business is good, and employment growth looks strong. The apparent weak spot is indeed housing; and this has a cyclical life of its own.

And the election season is upon us. In **Camas**, we have a very lively mayor’s race between the incumbent and a councilmember. It is intense. Expensive. Personal. In addition to the usual “sign wars”, active solicitation of city employee involvement, and a sometimes stinging critiques of veteran staffers (including the city administrator) are elements of the picture. Key staff are focused on “doing our jobs”; and some of us are “looking at our shoes” a lot.

With best greetings!

Lloyd

A brief SW Washington Notes appears as follows:

The scene here in the SW corner of the state is rather stable in the city management world.

All the managers and administrators are in place, and remain unchanged since the last newsletter.

A major regional issue is the Interstate-5 bridge between **Vancouver** and Portland. One hopes that after millions of words and endless study, that the processes will reach conclusions and the powers that be will reach decisions. More talk, more delay will result in more of a mess at the border.

As a non-sequitur, your SW observer would share this general conclusion: We live in a truly great state. The beauty of the Columbia River Gorge, the vitality and creativity of our economy, the quality of the state’s public culture; the strength of the university system; all of these lead in the same direction. We are very lucky to live and work in Washington state.

From **Vancouver** comes the following:

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Vancouver** is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. We kicked off the year with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary being the theme of the mayor's state of the city address in January, on the date of the city's actual incorporation. We've also received a congratulatory resolution from the state legislature and Willie Nelson, who started his musical career in **Vancouver**, performed a charity concert. Upcoming events include the mayor's bike ride on August 18th, and a community picnic on September 1<sup>st</sup> which will include an old fashioned baking contest. The year's festivities will conclude with the grand re-opening of our historic Marshal Community Center.

### Strategic Plan

**Vancouver** is about mid-way through updating its strategic plan. About 1,000 people have provided feedback through surveys and focus group meetings about of **Vancouver's** vision, their dreams for our city's future, and what issues are of greatest importance to helping achieve those dreams.

A core planning group lead by assistant city manager Betsy Williams will provide a preliminary overview of the various survey results and stakeholder feedback during a city council workshop in August, and they expect to finish the update in November. The plan addresses such important questions as:

- Where should city government focus its priorities?
- What role does the city have in addressing the community's most pressing challenges?
- How well is **Vancouver**, as a city government, doing in its role to meet those challenges?

### Transportation

One of the most important transportation projects planned for our community and region is a new Columbia River Crossing (CRC). Replacing the I-5 bridges and surrounding infrastructure, including mass transit, will cost anywhere from \$2 to \$6 billion. The bi-state CRC task force is currently working on the EIS for the preferred alternatives and is expected to release it in February.

Meanwhile the old Boise Cascade site on the waterfront Southwest of downtown has been sold to developers. As exciting as it is to redevelop this site into a mixed use community, upgrading the transportation infrastructure for this will include major road realignments through downtown

and modifying the railroad trestle for new access to the property. We are busy looking into options for financing these projects, totaling between \$47 and \$62 million.

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### Staffing

**Vancouver** has been busy with two high-level staff changes recently. After a nation-wide search we hired our new police chief, Clifford Cook, away from Fort Worth, Texas. We are excited to have Chief Cook be a part of both our organization and our community -- he brings with him a level of calm, cool, collected leadership along with a history of building relationships and working with diverse groups to find solutions to any challenge put in front of him. We continue to look for a replacement for Steve Burdick, our director of economic development, and have hired Bob Murray and Associates out of California to help in this search.

*Region 4, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties*

*Frank Sweet, City Supervisor, City of Selah*

[fsweet@elltel.net](mailto:fsweet@elltel.net)

In **Grandview**, city administrator Scott Staples reports a number of positive developments. The city council is expected to update the city's comprehensive plan in September, after eighteen (18) months of review by the public, staff, and planning commission.

The city and school have agreed to a new three year agreement to place a school resource officer in the middle school, with the costs being shared 50/50. The city/school coalition continues to meet monthly to discuss and implement strategies designed to mitigate harassment, intimidation, and gang-like behavior in the schools and community.

The city will be receiving two (2) grants from CTED for the downtown revitalization project. The first is a \$20,000 planning only grant to develop a detailed plan for the renovation of the infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, signage, and parking. The second is a \$24,000 rural opportunity grant to develop design standards for building facades.

The second of two city properties located downtown was sold to a private developer for a retail site.

The city continues its update of the city code and is about 12% complete.

**Yakima** Valley Community College and the city are continuing discussions regarding a joint city/college facility to be located on the campus.

The city's contract with the district court to operate the city's municipal court has been going well. Revenues are up 5% and court costs are down about 20%.

Staff has reviewed 5 year projections of revenues and expenditures for the general fund, and the outlook appears positive, with a reasonably healthy fund balance.

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The Leadership **Grandview** program will get underway in September with twenty (20) participants.

Finally, the city council has given the go ahead to build a new animal shelter adjacent to the public works facility. City funds will be used to build the facility and funds will be raised from the community to assist in furnishing it.

From **Selah**, city supervisor Frank Sweet sends a whole publication. It's called [Selah Signals](http://www.ci.selah.wa.us/signals.htm), and it's the city's newsletter. Frank sent the Summer 2007 issue. You can look it over at <http://www.ci.selah.wa.us/signals.htm>.

*Region 5, Benton, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties*  
*Gary Crutchfield, City Manager, City of Pasco*  
[zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us](mailto:zunkert@ci.pasco.wa.us)

**Connell** has had a number of things on its plate this year says city administrator Art Tackett. The first of course is the construction of a new 2048 bed state prison. It is design built and most of it is being built off site and brought in by semi truck. It is unbelievable how fast it is going up. They are anticipating an opening in December 2008 and I believe they will make it. At that time there will be 500 to 600 new employees at the facility which has prompted a developer to submit and begin construction on a 236 lot subdivision. That will be the largest subdivision to date in **Connell**. In addition there are rumblings about other developments, primarily commercial that will also be constructed so it has and will continue to be busy. In light of the significant expansion in the community, the council approved a future staffing, classification and compensation study which has just been completed. It suggests a number of changes and additions to the existing staff. These recommendations will be taken into consideration as the council begins work on the 2008 budget later this month.

On another note, the current city administrator has decided it is time to try fishing on a full-time basis so there will be an opening at **Connell**. Anyone who is interested is invited to ask for an application by contacting the city at 509-234-2701.

I would like to say that the last few years have been fun. The state organization is outstanding and I have enjoyed being a part of it. I wish you all the best!

**Kennewick** city manager Bob Hammond says, "Although it just seems like we finished negotiating three year deals with all five unions, we're beginning bargaining talks again with current contracts expiring the end of this year. Every 1% increase in general fund

salaries/benefits represents \$275k/yr. while our 1% increase limit for property tax (albeit that it is constitutionally up in the air but nevertheless politically still the standard) represents about \$40k/yr. so obviously we depend on growth revenues to cover inflation and have for many years.”

He continues to report that we recently annexed an area with about 1000 homes and with it inherited many future capital improvement needs, including no storm drainage infrastructure. We are one of the few cities in the state that has not established a stormwater utility but our council has always been reluctant to do so given our annual precipitation ranges from 7 to 11 inches/yr.

Crime statistics moved down the past year but as we all know policing is very expensive. We expect that our county commissioners will approve next week to put a 0.3% optional sales tax measure on the November ballot which if passed would allow for some new officers on the street and possibly some additional help in our city attorney’s office.

**Kennewick** has a biennial budget and this being an off year has allowed some time to work with our planning commission and others to work on the future vision for our city, with particular focus on the gateway coming in from the south via freeway from Oregon and also our shoreline development along the Columbia River.

Another key planning effort we’re pursuing is regional fire service coordination with future thoughts of merger, consolidation, fire authority or something made up of a combination of these. For now, all fire agencies in **Benton County** have standardized most of their policies/operating procedures and apparatus/equipment specifications and have also established an automatic aid agreement that now has us very close to dispatching the closest (or most appropriate) resources to an incident, regardless of jurisdiction.

Among many effectiveness measures we’re working on is a major records management project, using Image Source as a consultant to help us map out our work processes and automate our activities and work products city-wide. With challengers to each of our three incumbent council members this upcoming election, there’s that election year stuff also going on -- isn’t that fun!

**Pasco** continues to grow rapidly, reports city manager Gary Crutchfield, although the pace has slowed from about 1,000 new units per year to about 600 (estimated) this year. We are already considering expansion of the urban growth boundary -- nearby farmers are dreaming of retirement! The city council is struggling with the question of what to do with three aging public swimming pools -- in a hot climate -- and staff growth (especially police) has filled up the 12-year-old city hall (which was supposed to last at least 30 years!). Ahh, the pains of growth!

Believe it or not, **Pasco** is still awaiting the state supreme court’s decision on the challenge to its rental licensing program; the case was argued in May 2006 (we may be setting a new record for supreme court deliberation). Lastly, the city council decided in late 2006 to install cameras and

broadcast their meetings live; seems to be more deliberate statements and background explanations these days.

In **Richland**, interim city manager Cindy Johnson is leading an effort to revamp **Richland's** budget process to include up-front time for public input and long-range strategic planning.

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Despite a shortened budget timeframe this year, staff developed a modified approach to ensure adequate opportunities for public participation. To give city council another tool as it shapes **Richland's** 2008 community priorities, staff conducted a mini survey of five questions during July (264 residents participated online or at one of three city facilities during six different survey sessions). Senior staff used results, combined with those of the 2006 comprehensive community survey and 2007 employee survey, as a springboard to recommend major projects and areas of emphasis for council's consideration for 2008 funding. Cindy says, as her council works through this revised budget process, they will be better equipped with information and cost assessments. Cindy also reports that residential and commercial growth continues at a strong pace.

**Richland's** developing City View area is attracting several restaurants and shops along with four big box stores. Other areas in **Richland** are also attracting new businesses and the development of Columbia Point, along the Columbia River, is nearly completed. While long an attractive community for retirees, **Richland** is working to attract and retain young professionals, Cindy adds. And, as summer winds down, the **Richland** Public Library will prepare to move its collection and services into a temporary facility at the end of the year so that remodeling and expansion may begin on the existing building.

**West Richland** is in the process of hiring a new city administrator. Mark Panther has taken a new job as the superintendent of support services for the **Richland** School District leaving the position vacant. Police chief Layne Erdman has been serving as interim administrator pending the appointment of new personnel. Mayor Jackson expects to announce an interim administrator at the July 16 council meeting who will fill in for the rest of the year while the city completes a nationwide search for the full time position.

**West Richland** is also continuing its push for economic development and has hired Ruth Swain as an economic development specialist. Ruth previously served with TRIDEC and has hit the ground running preparing an economic development plan for the community, making contacts for development and assessing opportunities throughout the city. The city has also received a grant to initiate GIS mapping services and is looking to hire a full time GIS/IT support person in 2008.

*Region 6, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield & Whitman Counties*  
*John Sherman, City Supervisor, City of Pullman*  
[john.sherman@pullman-wa.gov](mailto:john.sherman@pullman-wa.gov)

**Colfax** city administrator Carl Thompson is keeping very busy with a variety of projects. However, the city failed to receive any bids for two street projects. It is a reflection of the current bid climate in which if you are lucky enough to receive any bids, they are usually well over budget. On the election madness front, three contestants, including the incumbent, are vying for the mayor's post. Two new candidates are running unopposed for city council positions.

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**Pullman** city supervisor John Sherman reports the financial situation in **Pullman** has become so dire that the city is being forced to sell the farm. Actually we are selling our farm but the money goes into a dedicated fund. We are selling our 734 acre farm north of **Pullman** for \$1.23 million. Years ago Gerald Lawson, an area farmer, approached the city about building a meditation garden in honor of his deceased wife. We said sure, as long as you buy the land and totally fund its construction and maintenance. In addition to purchasing the 15-acre Lawson Garden site in **Pullman**, he made good on his commitment for development and maintenance funds. In addition he gave us his farm in his will. We are now selling the farm to fund continued capital and operational needs at Lawson Gardens. (Side note: No, my salary is not being drawn out of the Lawson Gardens Fund. I merely take a small portion of my travel budget out of the fund so that I can make site visits to noted gardens around the world so that I can get ideas for what kind of flowers we should plant in Lawson Gardens the following year).

Did you notice I talked about farming and gardening instead of Cougar athletics this time? That's because the pre-season football prognosis isn't looking as good this year. Last year we were a bowl-lock until we Couged it at the end of the year. This year we will dispense with the crowing so that we don't have to eat crow again like we did last year.

Overall everything is going great. I have been in this silly business for thirty years now and still haven't figured out what I want to do when I grow up.

*Region 7, Adams, Grant, & Lincoln Counties*  
*Ehman Sheldon, City Administrator, City of Othello*  
[administrator@othellowashington.us](mailto:administrator@othellowashington.us)

Ehman Sheldon, city administrator, **Othello**, reports that they have opened their \$2.6 M pool on June 30, 2007. This project came in on time and under budget thanks to their contractor, Apollo Inc., of **Kennewick**. Daily attendance exceeds 300 with a total gate/concession sales per day of \$1,700. The pool has a zero depth entry, lazy river, lap pool and 25' slide.

Four council members are standing election this year. One unopposed, two with one person opposition and one with 2 opponents. As you know election time is crazy and can get ugly with requests for information and much more council discussion.

Public works has started the 2007 street improvements. They are in year four of a nine year program to improve every street in **Othello**. They are expecting close to \$500,000 in 2007 on street improvements.

The volunteer clean-up/beautification committee has raised the bar for **Othello**. The beautification theme is one that depicts the desert. The committee has installed fences, planted flowers, spread gravel and solicited donations. There have been many positive letters to the editor. Come see **Othello**!

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**Othello** is also experiencing a growth increase. Recent developer projects include 89 homes and 77 homes.

If you are a golfer, **Othello** has 6 outstanding courses within 30 miles. Plenty of hunting and fishing also -- Come see **Othello**

*Region 8, Ferry, Pend Oreille, Spokane, & Stevens Counties*  
*Lewis "Griff" Griffin, in transition*  
[l-ygriffin@sisna.com](mailto:l-ygriffin@sisna.com)

No report.

*Region 9, Chelan, Douglas, & Okanogan Counties*  
*Richard Brinkman, City Administrator, City of Leavenworth*  
[cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:cityadmin@cityofleavenworth.com)

No report.

*David Fonfara, City Administrator, City of Chelan*  
[dfonfara@nwi.net](mailto:dfonfara@nwi.net)

No report.

*Region 10, Island, San Juan, Skagit & Whatcom Counties*  
*Gary Tomsic, City Manager, City of Blaine*  
[gtomsic@cityofblaine.com](mailto:gtomsic@cityofblaine.com)

**Blaine** city manager Gary Tomsic sends the following:

Most of our construction projects for 2007 are completed. These include drilling a replacement well which is producing better than expected; rebuilding Cherry Street and finishing a 250,000 gallon retention tank under Marine Drive. The later project is the first phase of our \$32 million

wastewater treatment plant which will be under construction next spring and will take two seasons to complete.

Much of our efforts have been to finish the design and develop a funding plan for what we have named the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Plant. This project started seven years ago and will it will be ten years by the time it is on-line.

We are moving forward with the plans to construct a new electric substation. Though we had originally planned to build it alone, it appears now that we will partner with Puget Sound Energy and build a joint substation that will serve both of our needs.

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The airport saga continues in **Blaine**. The council voted 4-3 to close the airport and gave us until December 2008 to accomplish the task. It is messy. We have long term leases to break, grants to repay and a lot of other tasks. All this with little money. However, we are receiving considerable interest from developers who want to buy the land.

The planning staff has been working with the Port of **Bellingham** to update the wharf master plan. This has been a very positive project and we believe that we have a vision and plan for our harbor area that is going integrate well with our downtown redevelopment vision.

In addition to the city's projects, the state continues with the SR 543 project which rebuilds the truck highway that serves all commercial traffic crossing the border. This highway goes through **Blaine**. The GSA is just starting to construct a new Peace Arch Port of Entry on Interstate-5. This is a very large project that is supposed to be completed in time for the Vancouver, B. C., Olympics. We'll see.

I have been invited to give a keynote address at the Utah Rural Development Conference in Cedar City, Utah in August. I spoke to the group ten years ago about the future of rural places. They have asked me to talk on the same topic. It has been very interesting trying to get my mind around the topic. Like someone said (Yogi Berra?), "I'm not very good with predictions, especially about the future".

*Region 11, Snohomish County*

*Larry Bauman, City Manager, City of Snohomish*

[bauman@ci.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:bauman@ci.snohomish.wa.us)

From **Mill Creek**, we get the following message from former city manager Steve Nolen:

I recently joined the Prothman Company, in **Bellevue**, after resigning as **Mill Creek** city manager in late June. While the exit from **Mill Creek** wasn't exactly as I might have planned, things are working out well.

I especially want to thank all of my colleagues who contacted me with encouragement and support during the last month. This experience confirmed for me what great people we have working in city management in the Northwest.

In my new position, my major focus will be on providing organizational, analytical and other consulting services to local governments in the region. If you need help with a potential project or just want to chat, I'd love to hear from you. You can reach me at (206) 368-0050, at [steve@prothman.com](mailto:steve@prothman.com), or in **Walla Walla** on August 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> at the WCMA conference. Thanks again for all the support!

**Mountlake Terrace** continues moving forward with an implementation strategy to redevelop and revitalize the Town Center area. After years (if not decades of discussion), the **Mountlake Terrace** city

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council unanimously adopted a Town Center plan in February to encourage the redevelopment and revitalization of the existing downtown. The adoption follows a year of community outreach and public participation during which the public communicated that a revitalized downtown will provide many benefits to our community including: a lively downtown that provides services locally; attractive neighborhood stores, restaurants and coffee shops; wider sidewalks and street trees; an outdoor plaza with an interactive water fountain where people can gather and play; design of the highest quality; a friendly atmosphere for families and people of all ages; and improved community services.

We currently are moving forward with the development of a planned action ordinance, which will identify specific environmental impacts and ways to mitigate impacts in advance of development. We are also evaluating transportation and park impact fees. Later this summer, the council will consider adopting the zoning code amendments necessary to implement the Town Center plan as well as designating the **Mountlake Terrace** Town Center as a planned action area.

We are also in the process of developing our first ever Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which will provide the policy basis for how transportation funding is spent, and what projects or programs the city focuses on to provide transportation services for its citizens in the future.

The city is also moving forward with the development of a storm water comprehensive plan and recreation, parks and open space master plan. This plan is an opportunity for citizens to become involved in identifying future development and enhancement opportunities of the city's parks system, open space, trails, recreation facilities, recreation programs and services.

Affirming its ongoing commitment to safety and neighborhood livability, the **Mountlake Terrace** city council adopted a guide for traffic calming in the city in February. Titled the "City of **Mountlake Terrace** Traffic Calming Guide," the manual enables city staff and residents to work together to address speeding and cut-thru traffic in neighborhoods.

Earlier this year, an off leash dog park task force was appointed by the city council to explore potential Off Leash Dog Park sites including maintenance and operational requirements. The task force was successful in completing all tasks identified within their scope of work. The city council is expected to consider their recommendation later this summer. If approved, **Mountlake Terrace** expects to have an off-leash dog park operational by early 2008.

In June, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that **Mountlake Terrace** had received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the city's 2007-2008 biennial budget. The award represents a significant achievement by the city. It reflects the commitment of the city Council and city personnel to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In June, the city council of **Mountlake Terrace** approved an essential public facilities permit for a Community Transit Parking Garage. The approval allows Community Transit of **Snohomish County** to move forward with the construction of a 4 story (5-level) parking garage on their existing park and ride lot located just east side of I-5 on 236th Street SW. The garage will be built near the freeway over one of two existing parking areas on the site. It will expand the parking capacity at the site from about 388 to approximately 880 parking spaces. Construction is to begin late this year or early 2008 with completion expected in late 2008 or early 2009. This site serves commuters between **Snohomish County** and **King County**.

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As part of the city's ongoing efforts to pursue more effective ways to ensure the safety of our community the city council in July awarded the contract for Red Light Photo Enforcement to Redflex Traffic Systems, a Scottsdale, AZ based company. Their system uses a two-camera configuration to capture video and still photographs of vehicles failing to obey red lights at intersections. Over the next few months, representatives from Redflex will meet with city traffic engineers and the police department to identify intersections, conduct traffic monitoring studies and install the system at several key intersections. Following this period, there will be a time frame during which warning notices will be sent to registered owners of vehicles documented failing to stop at red light photo enforced intersections. After the warning period passes, the system, in conjunction with the police department, will begin sending notices of violation to the registered owners.

The first city-sponsored July 4 event in over 20 years attracted approximately 2,000 attendees at Evergreen Playfield, a fantastic turnout on a beautiful summer evening. The "Family Fourth of July" was aptly named, as hundreds of children explored free games, bouncy houses, balloon animals, arts, crafts, and treats, while adults enjoyed vendor booths, musical entertainment, and visiting with friends and neighbors. The evening concluded with a fireworks show, pleasing the audience with a red, white and blue finale.

This was the first year that fireworks were banned in the city and the response from the community was outstanding. Police and fire calls for service were down considerably and the debris typically left behind was almost non-existent. It used to take weeks to clean up our parks and streets, this year – we were back to "normal" in a day with minimal clean up and damage to public property.

The city's strategy to partner with our federal and state governments to move our community forward are beginning to pay off, as is evident by two recent accomplishments. In late June, Congressman Jay Inslee announced that the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$500,000 to help the city construct a system of larger water mains to feed our downtown area and to help the city bring its downtown revitalization plan to fruition. The funding was included in the House Interior appropriations bill, which passed the House. Next, the Senate will consider its version of the appropriations bill before the president signs it into law. Also in June, the city received a zero-interest loan totaling \$83,500 from the state public works board to update our water system comprehensive plan.

**Snohomish** is mid-way through a busy summer of new projects, programs and private developments that are having significant impact on the community.

The city's major capital projects include recently completed segments 1 and 4 of the \$14 million sewer trunk line project -- with segments 2 and 3 starting design phase. All together, the segments will be instrumental in providing sewer service to the remaining western and northern sections of the city's urban growth area. Annexations have already occurred in nearly a third of the UGA in anticipation of the sewer services. Other capital projects are focusing on street overlays (nearly \$500,000 this year) and design for signalization or improvements of three intersections.

Meanwhile the city continues to negotiate with BNSF regarding acquisition of the remaining rights of way needed along the rail corridor to complete the local section of the Centennial Trail. The Spirit of Washington's work with BNSF to lease the track corridor southerly from the city limits to **Woodinville** for the Dinner Train also shows progress, and the city's staff and business groups are working with the Dinner Train's managers to determine best options for passenger facilities.

Private development continues at a brisk pace, with more than 400,00 square feet of retail space

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(anchored by Fred Meyer, Kohl's and Home Depot) now rising from a commercial site that was formerly a gravel mine. Residential development associated with this project will create more than 100 condominium units, while single-family subdivisions in various stages of permit review will add several hundred units to the community.

Creating a new parks and open space plan to accommodate existing and new demands for recreation is the city's largest programmatic effort this summer. The draft plan will be presented for an early review by the city council later in August.

With the addition of an economic development manager position earlier this year, staff's efforts to grow our retail base and jobs base in the community has received some concentrated focus. These objectives, of course, are long term. The near-term opportunity receiving some focus is the expansion of the city's urban growth area by some 300 acres at the intersection of Highway 9 and US 2. This proposal is in the form of a docket application recently accepted for study by the **Snohomish** county council. A decision on this UGA expansion, however, is not expected until 2009. Meanwhile, our city and **Lake Stevens** have collaborated on a site proposal for the new UW North Puget Sound Campus just north of this UGA site. The cities of **Monroe**, **Sultan** and **Granite Falls** are also supporting this proposal.

*Region 12, North King County*

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

[mitch@clydehill.org](mailto:mitch@clydehill.org)

**Bothell's** assistant city manager Manny Ocampo reports that the city has been very busy this summer as it entered into the first year of its \$56 million biennium capital facilities plan. Projects include design of a joint public works shop/Northshore School District bus maintenance facility; implementing the next phase of the city's neighborhood traffic control program; completing the 102nd Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project; and widening SR 524 from two to five lanes.

In addition, the city completed the visioning phase of the downtown comprehensive plan update. To assist the council and planning commission with this process, two committees, comprised of over 50 people, worked with staff and Freedman, Tung & Bottomly Urban Design, the city's downtown plan consultant. Staff and the consultant are now working on the code updates to implement the plan. The completion of the code update is essential since the city has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Northshore School District to purchase approximately 18 acres of downtown property for public and private use. Upon purchase, the city will determine the public uses and surplus the remainder of the property for redevelopment. Public projects being considered for the downtown include a new city hall, a multi-way boulevard treatment of the downtown segment of SR 527, a transit center, the realignment of SR 522 through downtown, and the expansion of the city's premier park -- the park at **Bothell** Landing. The plan, as envisioned by this coalition of citizens incorporates mixed-use and residential development.

In conjunction with the redevelopment of the school district property, the city applied for Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) funding for the realignment of SR 522 project. This

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innovative and exciting project will result in improvements to traffic flow in and around the city's major intersection of SR 522 and SR 527 and the creation of the first block of the new "Boulevard" treatment of SR 527. Additionally, the realignment will extend and enhance Main Street. If the city is successful in obtaining LIFT funding, this project will stimulate the redevelopment of the downtown area and create two new redevelopment blocks in downtown. Award of LIFT funding will be announced this fall.

All of this activity is in addition to a record high for building permit applications and inspections and the confirmation that the state has budgeted funding for the construction of the I-405 south access to the University of Washington, **Bothell**/Cascadia Community College campus.

The summer months are well on their way. For **Bothell** that means 4th of July parades (our children's parade had over 1000 participants!); summer concerts in the park at **Bothell** Landing; picnics and barbecues with friends and family; and appreciating what makes Bothell so special. Probably the very things that make all of our towns special...

All the best!

From **Carnation**, city manager Candice Bock reports:

It is all about sewer in **Carnation**. We are 85+% complete with the installation of a vacuum sewer collection system throughout our entire city. So far we are ahead of schedule and under-budget. We will begin sewer service in March 2008 when the waste water treatment plant being built by **King County** is completed. We have also gotten into the business of installing side sewer connections on private property. We have just begun that part of the project and anticipate that because we are working in residents' yards things will probably not go quite as smoothly as the main line construction, but so far so good. If anyone is planning on getting into the sewer business, we are happy to share our experiences -- good and bad.

Now that we are able to see the light at the end of the sewer pipe, we are also working on an economic development strategy to breathe life back into our downtown and we are looking at tackling some of our aging streets and water infrastructure as well.

From **Clyde Hill**, town administrator Mitch Wasserman reports:

We are currently in the middle of implementing a bunch of road, storm sewer and sidewalk projects that will upgrade some important city infrastructure. The council authorized the equivalent of 2+ years of work wrapped into 1, which is acting to spread our PW staff pretty thin.

The city continues to experience a huge increase in property values. This has been coupled with a redevelopment trend of teardowns with larger high-end homes. This trend has been both challenging and rewarding. While stretching our building department and blocking the views of some existing neighbors, it has also helped to solve some older storm water problems and generated revenues that have kept our financial ship afloat.

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Speaking of financial items, the city has established a budget advisory committee for the past 7 years that has proven to be a great success. Based on discussions regarding the impacts of state initiatives on finances and operations, the council established a budget advisory committee of community members to help review the city's financial challenges and participate in the budget development process. Starting in 2000, and so far every year thereafter, a budget advisory committee has accomplished many goals through the efforts of up to 12 community members who directly participated in the meetings and the development of the budget.

Judging from the reaction of the council, staff and the members of the committee, we have had a very successful experience. Through their participation in the meetings and understanding of the information, the budget advisory committee provided input into some of the difficult choices of the process, challenged some of the assumptions and kept all on their toes. The observations, comments, questions and ideas of the committee greatly added to the development of the budget, modification to revenues/expenditures and an understanding of the city's overall financial status. The participation and knowledge of past members has been a great experience for our city that is beginning to pay dividends in other community leadership areas.

**Kirkland** submits the following:

There's never a dull moment here on the shores of Lake Washington. The elephant in the living room of every issue around here these days is the possibility of a major (for us) annexation that would increase our population from 46,000 to 80,000. As part of the consideration process (and we do like process) we're involved in extensive community outreach, inter-agency negotiations and operational planning. Our plans call for the city council to decide by the end of the year whether or not to place the issue on the ballot; that would then be followed by an election sometime in 2008. Stay tuned.

Another major effort in the works (again with lots of process) is consideration of forming a regional communications center for fire and police agencies. The proposed new agency would be called NORCOM. The planning process has just been completed and we will all be taking a recommendation to our respective city councils and boards over the next two months. Again, stay tuned.

**Lake Forest Park** city administrator David Cline submits the following:

Having been at the city now just two months, I have to thank Karen Haines and Doug Jacobson for their wonderful work before me. There is a great group of staff here and I'm enjoying working with Mayor Dave Hutchinson and the city council. We have already had a successful first joint council-leadership retreat and are now working on the follow-up activities such as defining priorities, schedules, and clarifying roles and responsibilities. I still have a lot of people to meet and stories to hear, but already I'm settling in and especially enjoying the bike commute to work every day.

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**Lake Forest Park** is moving forward on several fronts:

**Town Center Redevelopment** -- The developer who recently purchased the 17-acre property presented a preliminary plan of upgrading the retail portions and adding 300 condos and townhomes to the subcommittee reviewing the proposal. The plan was generally well-received, but they will have to address the parking concerns and the height of the project prior to the first community meeting.

**Burke-Gilman Trail** -- The Growth Management Hearings Board recently ruled against the city and for **King County** in our dispute about safety concerns and improvements to this multi-use trail. The hearings board ruled that the trail is an essential public facility and that our conditional use permit ordinance regulating the improvements to this trail were overly restrictive. We are currently reviewing all of our options, but our concern is for the impact on other cities who have trails going through their area. Contact me if you are interested in hearing more about this.

**CIP** -- The city recently moved to a biannual budget, partly to provide more staff time to create a comprehensive long-term CIP. We will be working on this one through the fall.

**Environmental Issues** -- Similar to most other cities, **Lake Forest Park** is also working across issues regarding the environment, including an interlocal agreement on a watershed across five cities (**Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, Shoreline, Edmonds, and Lake Forest Park**), creating a sustainability framework, and working to meet all of the new state requirements.

**Sewers** -- The city just completed the first of three phases to provide sewers to all of the areas within the city. It has been a tremendous effort with a lot of community support to remove the

old septic systems still remaining.

From **Medina**, city manger Mark Weinberg submits the following article:

### Encore Careers

If you are a weathered “gray hair” like me you have observed a number of social, occupational and operational trends in the workplace. Women took their rightful place among professionals and tradespersons and now represent nearly half the American workforce. Alternative schedule work weeks, “flex-time” and telecommuting have further transformed how we work.

An emerging trend in the workplace is the “encore career”. This phenomenon is particularly appealing to the leading edge of Baby Boomers and is due to fiscal, demographic and social forces that are changing our conventional view of retirement. Recent surveys say that up to 70% of people want to work post-retirement five or more years in an “encore career”.

Some workers see an “encore” career as an opportunity to “reinvent” themselves. They may devote themselves to social change, or search for ways to incorporate hobbies and interests into

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supplemental income. Others may capitalize on the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills honed over a lifetime in their chosen profession, in a different environment. Marc Freedman, author of *Encore: Finding Work that Matters in the Second Half of Life*, points out that “The goal now is to be able to stop climbing the ladder and start making a difference, to trade money for meaning, to have the latitude to work on things that matter most”.

Fourteen months after my retirement from 33 years of public service in a medium size Southern California city I elected to make my career encore in **Medina**. I told courting public sector head hunters that I still had a passion for city management, and sufficient energy to pursue it, but that going back to work at age 56 would have to be part of a lifestyle change. And if you think you can’t write your own ticket in an encore career, you may be wrong. My stringent requirements included, “managing a small city on the water in the Pacific Northwest without a traffic signal light”.

If you are considering an encore career in local government you probably already know the opportunities are strong; many younger prospects are forsaking public service for more glamorous options or the lure of riches. If you are looking for “postcards from the edge”, I can share with you that the right encore career can be revitalizing, exhilarating and strangely liberating.

Imagine moving to a community in a region of the country that provides an idyllic quality of life and countless new adventures to pursue. Add a short walk (or boat ride) to a job which allows you to make routine withdrawals from the bank of wisdom and experience to which you made daily deposits for decades. Enjoy work unencumbered by the weight of ambition and unfettered by the worries of contract extensions. Relish your new found independence when the realization

sets in that you needn't work any longer than it ceases to be fun. Renew the idealistic vows which propelled you on your journey, but which may have long since been subjugated to more practical needs. Like a virtuoso returning to the stage, use your encore appearance to play your signature song.

From **Sammamish**, city manager Ben Yazici sends the following:

Although **Sammamish** didn't incorporate until 1999, it has already received some very welcome recognition: In July, CNNMoney.com named it the 11<sup>th</sup> best small town to live in from coast to coast. We don't know exactly what criteria they used, but who are we to question their judgment?

Actually, it was a nice boost to morale around city hall. Our staff has worked very, very hard over the past few years to make this community a better place to live, and it was a nice affirmation to get this compliment out of the blue.

The "best places to live" article mentioned our city's excellent schools, safe streets and sense of community among the attributes that lifted us to such a high ranking. The highlighting of our "sense of community" is especially gratifying because that has been one of our biggest

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challenges here in **Sammamish**. With 40,000 people scattered over 21 square miles, our town could have evolved into just another stretch of identity-poor suburbia.

But as we saw during our first city-sponsored Fourth of July celebration at **Sammamish Commons**, our centrally located park and civic complex, our residents really want to come together as a community. Many of the estimated 12,000 in attendance wrote us afterward to say how much they enjoyed their small-town Independence Day, and thanked us for giving them something special to share.

That moment of unity, of course, comes after 8 years of hard work. In response to the priorities that fueled the community's drive for incorporation, we have built new roads, new parks, and an impressive array of other new infrastructure. Our city council, in addition to driving these changes, has also made sure the community was part of the growing process, insisting on robust public involvement at all levels.

We've also tried to enhance the sense of community by using all of our communication tools. Our monthly newsletter, cable channel and website have made us as transparent as possible, allowing residents to recognize what they have in common, and bond over the shared responsibility of making **Sammamish** a better place.

So thanks to CNNMoney.com for the recognition! And we hope they'll keep their eye on us. As hard as the staff and community are working, we're bound to break into the "top 10" the next time around.

From **Snoqualmie**, Joan Pliego, communications coordinator submitted the following:

If there's one word for **Snoqualmie**, it's "growth." We've grown from a town of about 1,500 people in 1997 to approximately 9,000 ten years later. Our population is forecast to reach at least 12,000 by 2011. To support our citizens' needs, economic development is high on our agenda. We're involved in the growth of retail and professional businesses, interacting consistently with business owners, responding to their needs, and focusing on balance within the community.

Construction on our new city hall has begun in downtown **Snoqualmie**, the historical heart of our city. It will bring together city staff currently spread throughout five city facilities into one location. This will allow for better use of historic buildings and more retail space in prime retail locations. We're keeping an interested eye on the development of the **Snoqualmie Valley Hospital** relocation, the Casino **Snoqualmie** project, and the upcoming sale of the world-famous Salish Lodge & Spa, which is the planning stages of adding a 250-room hotel, conference center, and several restaurants.

The **Snoqualmie Ridge** residential community is well-established with a two-year-old elementary school, many recreational fields, and a growing retail neighborhood and business park. Residents throughout the ridge and downtown neighborhoods are active in city

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development, particularly parks and recreation. We have more than 30 community parks, including **Snoqualmie Point Park**, a 10-acre preservation site that overlooks the scenic valley, has beautiful views of Mt. Si and Mt. Baker, and is at the beginning of the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail that leads to the Rattlesnake Ledge.

Summer in **Snoqualmie** has been busy. As a highlight of our summer, we're hosting the Boeing Classic PGA Champions Tour at the Tournament Players Course (TPC) **Snoqualmie Ridge**. Other summer activities include the Snoqualmie Farmers' Market, Starlight Cinema, Railroad Days Festival and Parade, and the opening of the new **Snoqualmie Library**. We're excited about our city and encourage you to visit any time!

**Sound Transit**, by way of Joni Earl, executive director, reports that the organization is continuing to achieve many milestones. Their most significant recent milestone was the **Sound Transit Board's** adoption of our **Sound Transit 2 (ST2) Plan**, which is a new investment program for the next 20 years. They will be on the November general election ballot with the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID), which is a regional roads investment plan for the same time period. This will be one ballot item on roads and transit. The **ST Plan** builds on the investments either in place or underway since the 1996 Sound Move vote, and expands the light rail system by another 50 miles with light rail north to **Lynnwood** and 164th/Ash Way in **Snohomish County** south to **Tacoma** and east across I-90 to **Bellevue** and the **Redmond-Overlake** area with the highest next priority being light rail all the way to downtown **Redmond**. This Plan was about 3 years in the making with a great deal of technical work, outside experts, and outreach to the general public, cities and counties, and other transit agencies and stakeholder

groups. They continue to build the first 16 miles of light rail from **Seattle** to **Sea-Tac** Airport, and they remain within the overall project budget of \$2.4 billion and on schedule for the first 14 miles opening in July 2009 and the last 1.8 miles to the airport in December 2009. Their bus and commuter rail ridership continues to increase and they continue to build non-light rail projects throughout the region. Needless to say, they are busy, and we continue to value our relationships with the cities in our 3-county district.

*Region 13, South King County*

*Joyce Papke, Assistant City Manager, City of Normandy Park*

[joycep@ci.normandy-park.wa.us](mailto:joycep@ci.normandy-park.wa.us)

From **Covington**, Derek Matheson, city manager, sends the following:

**Covington** celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, as does **Maple Valley**, its neighbor to the east. The city hosted a community "birthday party" in July, and will host another event closer to the official Aug. 31 anniversary date.

It must be the summer construction season, because the city just broke ground on a \$6 million project to reconstruct a major north-south arterial, and is in the final design phase on a \$14 million new road that will open up major portions of downtown **Covington** to commercial

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development. The city's first two-lane roundabout is under construction, as well, in the city's "uptown" neighborhood.

Speaking of commercial development, Home Depot broke ground in May, and the city continues to have conversations with Costco that hopefully will lead to a **Covington store**. Together, the two stores would increase the city's sales tax receipts by around 50%.

**Covington** continues to see healthy residential development, as well, with several plats approved or in the pipeline.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Walla Walla!

From **Federal Way**, city manager Neal Beets reports:

**Federal Way** reports that Part I crimes in the city are down 14%. In addition, **Federal Way** purchased 4 acres of downtown property, RFP'd the property to developers, received seven responses, and the council is now deciding who to negotiate with over a disposition and development agreement. The two developer finalists are proposing mid- and high-rise mixed use developments estimated to build-out over six years and cost \$200 to 300 million. One developer is seeking city financial participation, the other is not. Wonder which one the council will pick... On other fronts, residents in the seven square miles of unincorporated **King County** east of **Federal Way** will have the opportunity on August 21<sup>st</sup> to decide whether they wish to be

annexed. So far, we haven't seen too many rock-throwers, and we have managed to catch a few rocks thrown our way. If annexation were approved, **Federal Way** will grow by 20,000 residents. And, finally, **Federal Way** opened its new, \$21 million, 72,000 square feet community center this Spring -- to a rousing standing ovation where the city manager was hoisted on the shoulders of a grateful citizenry and canonized in the CMHoF (City Manager Hall of Fame). Actually, it's nice to step into a job where almost all the work on a major project has been done (by former city manager David Moseley, former assistant city manager Derek Matheson -- now **Covington's** CM -- and a great management team), and you merely have to show up at the grand opening!

And from **Issaquah**, Leon Kos, city administrator, has this to say:

“From Issaquah, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2007, it is hot here.”

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

Ready in **Renton** 2007 -- We're challenging our residents to test their level of emergency preparedness during August 8-10. Citizens and neighborhoods are encouraged to evaluate how they would deal with a loss of power, lack of provisions and/or loss of shelter. We're asking them to turn off all power and try living without it; use only supplies from emergency kits; and camp out in the yard, car or find another place to stay. Our goal is to encourage citizens to think

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about and practice their response to a disaster. Our fire & emergency services department is also asking city employees to participate so the city can assess its own level of preparedness.

**Renton** City Officials Welcome Seahawks to **Renton** -- We were pleased this spring to help the **Seattle** Seahawks commemorate their move to **Renton** with the opening of the Virginia Mason Athletic Center. The mayor and city council, Seahawks CEO Tod Leiweke, club president Tim Ruskell, coach Mike Holmgren, and J. Michael Rona, president of Virginia Mason Medical Center attended to celebrate a partnership between Virginia Mason and the Seahawks. The facility will allow the team to train in one place year-round, and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2008.

The Landing - Construction continues on the Landing, a 68-acre urban village development on South Lake Washington (former Boeing surplus property). In fall of 2007, the first wave of store openings is expected, with anchor store Target, and including large and small retail offerings, a health club, and family-dining restaurants and cafes. The second phase, expected to open in spring 2008, will include a parking garage, cinema, more specialty retail, and a residential complex. The city is contributing \$20 million toward infrastructure improvements.

Transportation -- As with most cities, **Renton** is in the throes of one of the busiest construction project seasons ever. In addition to a host of major projects in Renton on our state highways in partnership with WSDOT on all major freeways (I-405, SR 167, SR 169 and SR 900),

Burlington Northern (BNSF) will be replacing three railroad bridges, including the BNSF railroad bridge over the Cedar River.

Benson Hill Communities Annexation -- This November, voters in the Benson Hill communities southeast of **Renton** have asked to vote on whether to annex to the city, or to remain part of unincorporated **King County**. 16,000 people live in these neighborhoods (Cascade, Benson Hill, Spring Glen, and Spring Brook). The mayor and city council believe annexation is a partnership between current residents, potential new residents, and the city. The city has drafted a preliminary transition plan that relies on use of the state sales tax credit if annexation is approved. If voters do approve annexation, Benson Hill would become part of **Renton** and the city would grow to over 75,000 residents.

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

Angle Lake Water Quality Monitoring -- Since 1996, the **King County** Department of Natural Resources & Parks and the Water & Land Resources Division have monitored a number of public swimming beaches on Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington, and Green Lake during the summer months to determine levels of bacterial pollution and relative human health risks. 2007 marks the first year for **SeaTac** to be part of the Freshwater Swimming Beach Monitoring Sampling and Analysis Project. Sampling was started May 15 and will end September 18. According to county officials, Angle Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the region due to it being predominantly fed by underground springs.

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Emergency Management -- The city has implemented CodeRED software. This ultra fast telephone service allows the city to contact area residents and give them brief messages over the telephone during a disaster or police incident.

We have also installed new WebEOC emergency management software to enable better decisions and tracking of events during a disaster. This software is compatible with both **King County** and the State of Washington to assure we are as capable as possible to provide the most effective emergency management.

Economic Development -- In April, **SeaTac** held the **SeaTac** Hospitality Leaders Forum at the Hilton Conference Center. Over 40 attendees, including local public officials and hotel industry executives, engaged in a stimulating dialogue about the future vision for the hospitality industry in **SeaTac**. **Seattle** Southside Visitors Services provided an overview of the **SeaTac** market and available services. A distinguished panel of experts, including representatives from the Hilton Hotel Corporation, Choice Hotels, Alaska Airlines, and LMN Architects were assembled to help inspire the discussion. Keying off of the panel discussion, attendees helped brainstorm innovative ideas to augment existing city programs and marketing efforts. Attendees then helped to prioritize these ideas and city staff promised to consider them when moving forward with tourism attraction efforts.

Staff made a presentation at the Master Builders Association's South King Issues Group breakfast in May in order to raise awareness of development opportunities in the city. Economic development manager Todd Cutts provided an overview of the city's economic development services and highlighted programs relevant to the audience of residential developers. Planning director Steve Butler updated the group on current development projects, future plans, and provided a map highlighting residential development opportunities. Assistant city manager Tina Rogers informed the group of **SeaTac's** strategic advantages for residential development and briefed them on the ongoing permit streamline process. Staff then answered specific questions about future plans and existing nuances and codes related to development in **SeaTac**.

Park Improvement Projects -- **SeaTac** has two park improvement projects underway. The first is the renovation of 14.8 acres of Valley Ridge Park, located next to Tyee High School. The \$4.2 million project will include a new lighting system and the installation of synthetic field turf. The second project is the **SeaTac** Community Center Neighborhood Park. The park will include play equipment for children between the ages of 2-12 years, a basketball court, a climbing boulder, swing set, sensory garden, benches, and picnic table. Both projects are set to be completed early September.

*Region 14, Pierce County*

*Rob Karlinsey, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor*

[karlinseyr@cityofgigharbor.net](mailto:karlinseyr@cityofgigharbor.net)

Don Morrison, city administrator, **Bonney Lake** is busy spending its reserves and bond capacity

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on downtown property acquisition for its new planned civic center and downtown redevelopment plan. Early next year the city will build a spec retail/office building in the downtown to serve as a model for downtown redevelopment. The city will temporarily use half of the new building to house the court and council chambers and a couple of smaller departments to relieve overcrowding in the old city hall -- built when the city had 4,000 residents and 40 employees (we now have 16,000 residents and 128 employees). This will get the city by for a few more years until the civic campus can be constructed, including development of a couple of nearby condo and multi-family projects. The city has installed an automated bollard (metal post "gate") system and pay station at its Lake Tapps boat launch. After a bumpy start -- some of the in-ground sensors played a few tricks with the bollards, sending them up or down prematurely. The system has been recalibrated and is working well. The city recently completed a makeover of its web site. This was done internally using a city steering committee. The revamped site organizes information into 4 basic sections: government, community, business, and "How Do I". It can be viewed at [www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us](http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us). I was looking forward to attending the Walla Walla conference, but my daughter and son-in-law both graduate from college at the end of summer and their college graduation exercises are scheduled the same time as WCMA. Family first.

Rob Karlinsey, city administrator in **Gig Harbor** tells us: I've been the city administrator here in **Gig Harbor** for about six months now. I'm on a major learning curve, especially when it

comes to utilities which are taking a lot of my time (more than I would prefer!). Our sewer treatment plant is now at capacity, so we now get to turn down new development applications until the plant gets expanded in 2009. For a small town of only 6,800, we have a huge capital agenda coming our way. We expect to be spending over \$100 million on capital over the next 5-7 years. As a result, I've restructured the organization, and I'm looking for a public works director to help drive our capital projects. Let me know if you know of any good public works directors that would like to come and work for beautiful **Gig Harbor**. In addition to capital projects, the private sector is also pushing a lot of developments. We have over 1,500 residential units and over one million square feet of commercial currently in the permit pipeline. Lots more to share, but I'll spare you for now. See you in **Walla Walla!**

Along the Pacific Highway corridor adjacent to I-5, a new La Quinta hotel has just opened and a new Ford dealership will open next week. The **Sound Transit** train station is also under construction at that location.

The Tillicum neighborhood between the freeway and American Lake, and adjacent to the western terminus of the proposed Cross-Base Highway, is the subject of a major community planning effort, and the city recently adopted a moratorium on development there pending completion of the new plan.

From **Lakewood**, city manager Andrew Neiditz reports that the **Lakewood** management team has been restructured with the establishment of two new assistant city managers, without adding any new positions. The finance director position has been upgraded to ACM -- Admin & Finance, and Choi Halladay, the former CFO from **Wenatchee** Valley College has been appointed to that position; and the community development director position has been upgraded

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to ACM -- Development, with David Bugher, a long-time city staffmember, promoted to that position.

Here's the report from **Sumner**. City administrator John Doan reports that as the result of retirements and people moving to other opportunities, **Sumner** has had several key personnel transitions in the leadership team with new attorney, clerk, financial operations director and recruiting for a police chief. The city has selected a private sector partner to develop the Red Apple Market block in downtown **Sumner** with commercial and residential uses. The negotiations and design should be completed in time to start construction in 2008. The annexation election to move fire services into **Pierce County** Fire District No. 22 is planned for February. Promoting partnerships and an environment where jurisdictional partnerships can flourish remains a challenge.

The focus of council effort and administrative energy has been on a 5-year financial plan and implementation of the "Financial Toolbox" which includes tools to address the long-term financial stability of the city. Like all of us, finding other revenue sources to fill the gap between the rate of growth in expense and the increase in property taxes remains a significant challenge.

As part of the business planning within the police department, we are partnered with the Washington Institute of Community Oriented Policing at Washington State University to do an assessment of the department's relationships with the community and others. In spite of the transitions in leadership, the effort is proceeding with a team of employees from the department developing recommendations for the department's response.

From **University Place**, city manager Bob Jean reports:

**University Place** Town Center -- our long-term investment in rebuilding the local tax base following the 25% budget cuts resulting from I-695 losses since 1999 and in creating a real sense of "PLACE" unique to **University Place** -- is finally moving forward. On May 17, 2007, the city council approved the development and disposition agreement (DDA) and the results of our negotiations over the past 18 months with our project developer, Uptown Center Development LLC.

The significant deal points of the Town Center DDA involve:

- 12.6 acres of land sales for private development
- 5.7 acres of retained lands for public improvements
- 650,000 square feet of mixed use retail, office, hotel and theatre
- 1,310 public parking garage and 150 on-street parking
- new library/city hall civic building of 50,000 square feet o public street and market square improvements

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The financial elements are as follows:

- \$19.5 million in land sales, 17.1 million in land purchases; \$ 2.5 million in net city land sales revenue
- \$212 million in private investment (85%), 38 million in public investment (15%); \$250 million total project investment
- Estimated annual revenues upon completion, \$5 million to state, \$1.9 million to city \$700,000 to schools, \$250,000 to fire

The project includes a 40,000 square foot university building for WSU and community and private college extension campuses. With Town Center and the university building, we finally will have both a sense of PLACE and a UNIVERSITY in **UNIVERSITY PLACE!**

*From the counties:*

*Ben Holland, Director of Administrative Services, Kitsap County  
President, Washington County Administrative Association  
[BHolland@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:BHolland@co.kitsap.wa.us)*

No report.

## 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](mailto: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.

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- 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. 2, August 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](mailto:rbartels@mrsc.org). We can mail them a paper copy. They should be a member of WCMA.

Ron Bartels, editor  
WCMA News

## In Memoriam

**Debra Symmonds**, deputy city manager of Mercer Island, passed away after a year-long battle with cancer. Deb was 54 years old and had worked with city manager Rich Conrad since 1980. She was a long time member of WCMA and recently served on the association's board of directors.

## Transitions

**Todd Babcock**, who had been a financial management analyst with the U. S. General Services Administration, has been named research assistant in Spokane.

**Tim Burns**, public works director of Mill Creek, has been named interim city manager there.

**David Cline**, former interim city manager of Burien, is the new city administrator of Lake Forest Park.

**Layne Erdman**, police chief of West Richland has been serving as interim administrator there. This appointment was temporary only, while a search was done for a more permanent interim person.

**Malcolm Fleming**, who has been the WCMA past president, and the chief administrative officer of Bellingham, will become the new city manager of Louisville, Colorado. You can see the Louisville home page which contains the news release from the mayor at <http://www.ci.louisville.co.us/>

**Mark Hoppen**, former city administrator of Gig Harbor, is now the deputy development services director of Puyallup.

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**Steve Nolen**, city manager of Mill Creek, has resigned and is in transition.

**Donna Noski** has now been appointed interim city administrator of West Richland. Ms. Noski has nearly twenty years of management experience in the public sector, including twelve years as the administrator for **Benton County**. Ms. Noski is also a former member of the West Richland city council and holds a degree from South Dakota State University.

**Nancy K. Ousley** has been appointed assistant city manager of Kenmore. She was formerly with CTED.

**Mark Panther**, former city administrator of West Richland, has taken a new job as the superintendent of support services for the Richland School District.

**Paul Schmidt**, formerly city administrator in Cheney, is now the city administrator in Oak Harbor.

**Bernard Seeger**, former management analyst in Shoreline, is now the city administrator of Cascade Locks, Oregon.

**Vernon Stoner**, formerly the regional director, region 3, L&I, is now the deputy director, operations for L&I.

**Art Tackett** has announced to his city council that he plans to retire at the end of this year.

**John Williams** is the new deputy city manager of Battle Ground.

## WCMA Election Results

President                      Andrew Neiditz, City Manager, Lakewood

Vice-President              Ben Yazici, City Manager, Sammamish

Board of Directors

One year term              Cathy Mulhall, County Administrator, Chelan County

Two year term              Bob Hammond, City Manager, Kennewick

Gary Tomsic, City Manager, Blaine

Tansy Hayward, Assistant to the City Manager, Tacoma

Julie Modrezejewski, Assistant City Manager, Shoreline

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## WCMA Officers and Board Members

**President**                      Duane Cole, City Manager, Walla Walla  
(509) 527-4522                      [dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:dcole@ci.walla-walla.wa.us)

**Vice President**              Andrew Neiditz, City Manager, Lakewood  
(253) 589-2489                      [aneiditz@cityoflakewood.us](mailto:aneiditz@cityoflakewood.us)

**Past President**              Malcolm Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Bellingham  
(360) 676-6979                      [malcolm@cob.org](mailto:malcolm@cob.org)

**Secretary-Treasurer**      Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director of MRSC  
(206) 625-1300                      [ryukubousky@mrsc.org](mailto:ryukubousky@mrsc.org)

**Board of Directors**

(2005 – 2007)

John C. Darrington, City Manager, Richland  
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Donald D. Krupp, Chief Administrative Officer, Thurston County  
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Cathy Mulhall, County Administrator, Chelan County  
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Mary P. Swenson, Chief Administrative Officer, Marysville  
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Ben Yazici, City Manager, Sammamish  
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(2006-2008)

Charlie Bush, Assistant to the City Manager, Bellevue  
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#### Ex Officio members

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## 2007 Calendar

- **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 75<sup>th</sup> 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

- **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

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