



Administrator's Friday Letter

February 5, 2010

1. Pt. Defiance Rail Bypass project:

The Washington State Department of Transportation continues to move ahead with a freight and passenger train separation project which has significant importance to DuPont. The current water level rail line serves both freight and passenger traffic and is already congested. There were 820 trains delayed more than 5 minutes on that segment of rail in 2008. The project focus is about growing service, making it more reliable and reducing congestion on the main line. When the bypass improvements are completed the current line adjacent to I-5 will allow more Amtrak Cascade trains to travel the corridor. They will be traveling at 79 miles per hour on reconstructed rail lines and through re-engineered intersections.

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/rail/pnwrc_ptdefiance/

2. Community Development News:

It was a welcome sight this week to see construction activity at both the McDonald's Restaurant site and the Community First Credit Union site. Building section staff also had inquiries from the potential buyers of the mixed use project by Liberty Inn which would be a huge project to see underway.

Approved Planning Agency minutes starting with January 2008 can now be viewed on the City website at: City Clerk/Resolutions, Ordinances, Minutes. Check back from time to time for updates.

Glacier NW just released the *Pioneer Aggregates Gravel Mine Expansion – Sequalitchew Creek Ecosystem and Watershed Restoration Preliminary Draft Feasibility Study* dated January 18, 2010. This was prepared as part of the Glacier MOU process. The draft report is on the City website at:

http://www.ci.dupont.wa.us/files/library/dad970f45db914ec_o.pdf

3. DuPont Trails to be Featured on Rainier Country

Pierce County Government Access Television has a new look at its website which among many improvements provides a home page for each city. Take a look at this valuable resource for excellent community and government news.

<http://www.piercecountytv.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/communications/pctv/pcn.htm>

A new program which DuPont contributes stories to on a quarterly basis is Rainier Country. The format is like the Evening Magazine news show. The next DuPont story will be on the progress which has been made on showcasing our trail network. The City, Historical Society, and Rainier Media are in the planning stages for the story.