



Administrator's Friday Letter

August 28, 2009

1. Sprinkler Replacement Update

The City has taken several recent actions to facilitate completion of the residential sprinkler head replacements required in a settlement agreement between Tyco and the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Some homes built in the Palisades development had sprinkler heads of the model involved in the voluntary replacement order. Tyco and its sprinkler repair contractor Comunale have not completed the required work in DuPont. A primary object of contention is a second waiver which Comunale has attempted to extract from DuPont homeowners.

The City met with the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) this week as they have jurisdiction for sprinkler systems. A letter will be sent from SFM indicating such a waiver is not permitted. In addition, the Consumer Products Safety Commission has indicated that they will also require Tyco/Comunale to inform registered homeowners that one option available is for the homeowner to hire a plumber licensed to work on sprinkler systems to have the work done. Tyco must then provide reimbursement at a specific rate per sprinkler head. This rate may not cover the full cost of the work but does shift control of completion to the homeowner.

The City has also contacted the State Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division and has an AAG assigned to monitor compliance. The City has produced a Gantt chart for completion of all actions necessary to finish work in all homes in DuPont. Our target is to be able to close the file on this matter by the end of November. A final point, the City is not a legal party to this matter as it is a civil product liability issue. The City chose to become engaged because of the protracted impasse which occurred and the impact on citizens of our community.

2. New On-Street Parking Restrictions Being Implemented

Parking on both sides of the street seriously impedes the access of emergency vehicles on a number of City streets. To provide fire access, it has become necessary to implement parking restrictions on some streets, which will limit parking to one side of the street. Restrictions were established by Resolution of the City Council for an area on McDonald Street north of Wilson Ave. In the future restrictions are planned for additional areas on the following streets: McDonald, Forrest, Arnold, Meyer, Braget (curves), Tolmie (curves), Rowan Court (curves), Cox (curves), Hudson and Griggs (curves). Homeowners adjacent to affect parking areas will receive notice of an informational meeting planned in September.

3. 1843 Fort Annual Celebration Successful

More than 425 people attended the annual celebration and history lesson sponsored by the DuPont Historical Society. A salmon dinner prepared by the Nisqually Tribe was a highlight.

4. City Applies for Innovation Partnership Zone

On Monday, August 31, 2009, DuPont will submit an application to the State Department of Commerce to establish an Innovation Partnership Zone within the City. If successful, this designation will assist in bringing together research, workforce training and globally-competitive companies in close proximity for a cooperative, research-based effort to create new commercially viable products and jobs. Innovative partnership zones were created by the state legislature in 2007. To date eleven zones have been designated throughout the state.

5. Major Mixed Use Project Moves Ahead

DuPont Station Mixed Use project moves another step closer to construction. On September 8, 2009, The DuPont City Council will be presented with an easement agreement satisfying the DuPont Hearing Examiner's decision approving relocation of an easement shared with Liberty Inn. The large empty lot adjacent to Liberty Inn encompasses the entire mixed use project. It will include a mix of commercial space, apartments, and condo's.

6. Bell Hill Community Park Construction Imminent

Use caution when walking the trails near the Bell Hill subdivision. The Bell Hill Community Park preconstruction meeting was held August 20, 2009 and the park will be under construction soon. This 4.4 acre park is located at the west end of Bell Hill plat and will connect to existing community trails.

7. New Quadrant Multifamily Project Planned on Center Drive

Quadrant submitted a boundary line adjustment application last week to establish a lot north of City Hall that will be suitable for multifamily development, per the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map. A formal land use application has not been filed yet.