



# Administrator's Friday Letter

December 11, 2009

## 1. City Acquires Historic Properties

At the December 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting the Mayor announced the City has completed acquisition of 49 acres adjacent to Sequatchew Creek, including the Wilkes observatory site. With the acquisition the City also acquired a public corridor along the bluff adjacent to the First Park Northwest Landing site. This acquisition is the most recent in a series in which the City has sought to acquire and protect historically significant sites in the community.

## 2. 2010 Budget Adopted

After seven budget meetings and much deliberation about difficult choices, the City Council adopted a 2010 Budget appropriating \$10,011,238 across all Funds. The General Fund appropriation is for \$5,892,713 which represents a 9% decrease from the adopted 2009 General Fund Budget. All local governments in Washington are adjusting to the harsh economic times and trimming expenditures. Every city department has seen service levels adjusted to respond to lower manpower levels and revised priorities.

## 3. Expanded Use of Golf Carts Studied

The City is reviewing the implications of a request from the Sierra Club to permit the use of golf carts on city streets. The Washington Department of Transportation has indicated that cities can test the feasibility of such a use as a pilot project. State Representative Tami Green intends to sponsor some language changes in the state statutes (RCW) which would put golf carts on the same footing as bicycles i.e. be able to ride in the bike paths and trails where bikes are permitted.

## 4. Flood Plain Application

Citizens have recently experienced difficulty closing mortgages where flood insurance is not available. DuPont is not a high risk for floods given its topography. In years past the City Council chose not to participate in the federal flood insurance program. That decision is now under review. A centerpiece policy action will be adoption of a local flood control ordinance by the City Council. It is expected that the Council may have an initial staff report and First Reading of an Ordinance by February.

## 5. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Meets

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee is tasked with recommending a budget to the City Council for the use of lodging tax revenues. The lodging tax is a restricted portion of the sales tax and its use is limited to tourism promotion activities which have the impact of filling hotel rooms. The City Tourism Board has worked closely with the community to help develop budget suggestions.