



## Administrator's Friday Letter

September 11, 2009

**1. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Communications:** A flurry of recent activity has resulted in the completion of the EOC communications inter-operability project. The communications tower was erected; antennas, radio port sites, and Police/Fire/HAM base radio units were installed; and radio handsets were received and programmed. On September 15<sup>th</sup> the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will conduct a communications test. On a related topic, staff will be receiving training on the new Pierce County DEM web portal for emergency operations on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Sequatchew Creek – City Hall Trail Connection:** The recently installed City Hall to Sequatchew Creek Trail connection and doggy pot station are receiving a fair amount of us from walkers. Several walkers have stopped by City Hall with their trail map to ask questions. Kudos to the Public Works staff for making this happen.

**3. Mounts Road Access Gate:** Staff have been following up on concerns regarding the usage of the Mounts Road access gate. Contact has been made with Quadrant and their on-site representative is being contacted to reiterate that this access gate is to be used for emergency vehicle access purposes and to allow construction traffic access to the Division 5 construction site. The use of the access gate for construction was address in Condition #18 of the Hearing Examiner's decision for the Division 5 plat. Recent use of the gate by contractors occurred to allow the delivery of sand to complete the work on the storm pond.

In addition, staff is installing orange fencing to prevent vehicles from going around the existing fencing and ecology blocks to access Mounts Road. Signage is posted informing the general public that access is for "authorized vehicles only". Police will be conducting spot checks to help ensure compliance. Public Works staff recently installed a pedestrian/bicycle opening near the storm pond to allow those users access.

**4. H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu):** City staff are working on plans to prepare for a potential outbreak of the H1N1 virus (commonly referred to as the Swine Flu). Preparations include developing an emergency action plan for Police and Fire operations; working on contingency planning with Lakewood Fire District #2; staging vaccinations for First Responders and their families; and planning for continuity of essential City functions.

Additionally, staff is working with the Steilacoom School District and Town of Steilacoom to develop a community-wide H1N1 plan primarily aimed at school-aged children. We will discuss this topic further with the Council at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.

**5. Public Opinion Survey:** The phone portion of the public opinion survey is ongoing. Over 230 surveys have been completed with another 360+ scheduled callbacks. I have been in communication with Bruce Brown of PRR regarding concerns and complaints regarding the survey and how it is being conducted. His firm has been taking prompt action to ensure that our issues are being resolved in an expedient manner.

**6. Pierce County Library Annual Card Drive:** The Pierce County Library System is conducting its third annual card drive from October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>. Currently 230,600 people have Pierce County Library cards, which is an 11% increase over last year. People can get amnesty from fines and fees during Amnesty Week, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. During that one week only, people with fines or fees from overdue books and materials may get their record wiped clean and start using the library again. Additional information is available at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org).

**7. Growth Coordination Plan:** On September 10<sup>th</sup> the City of DuPont hosted a stakeholders coordination meeting for interested and affected cities along the I-5 corridor that are impacted by traffic congestion through Fort Lewis. This is a regional effort to develop a Growth Coordination Plan utilizing a \$450,000 planning assistance grant. Over 25 representatives from affected agencies were in attendance. The group discussed impacts from current and projected growth of Fort Lewis and McChord AFB installations, existing traffic problems, and reviewed existing condition reports and draft focus area screening results. The group came to agreement on four interchange focus areas (including the Steilacoom-DuPont Road interchange) that will be used in moving forward in the study for additional analysis, identification of options/alternatives, and traffic modeling options.

**8. DuPont Station Mixed Use Easement Agreement:** On September 8<sup>th</sup> the City Council approved the DuPont Station Mixed Use easement agreement, moving the construction of this project one step closer to reality. Mike Rabstoff, project developer, indicated that he will announce the start date of the project this Fall.

**9. City-wide Garage Sale:** Remember the City-wide garage sale is this Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 3 PM.