



Administrator's Letter

March 18, 2011

Dawn Masko, City Administrator



1. CPR & First Aid Classes

Due to strong demand, the DuPont Fire Department will offer two CPR & First Aid classes in April. The classes are open to DuPont citizens and are being held on Saturday, April 23rd and April 30th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Public Safety Emergency Operations Center located at 1780 Civic Drive. The class teaches how to properly apply CPR techniques in cases of cardiac arrest, as well as basic first aid. Interested citizens should contact Chief Greg Cooper at (253) 377-3247.

2. Blue Star Museum Program

The City of DuPont is proud to announce the participation of the DuPont Museum in the Blue Star Museum program for 2011. Over 900 museums across the country participate in the program which is a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families. This program allows for free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The DuPont Museum does not charge an admissions fee but participation in the program offers the bonus of free nationwide advertising and promotion.

The program is designed to acquaint traveling and recently relocated military families with the local museums in their area, as well as provides an opportunity for communities to recognize and honor military personnel and their families for their dedicated service to our country.

The DuPont Museum is located in the Historic Village at 207 Barksdale Avenue and is open on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 1 – 4 PM and on Thursday from 11 AM – 4 PM. Additional information is available on the Museum's website at www.dupontmuseum.com.

3. Spring Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class

The DuPont Fire Department invites citizens who live or work in the DuPont area to attend the next session of CERT classes. Aimed at preparing groups of citizens in our community to prepare for and respond to disasters, the classes will follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and offered in cities across the United States. The idea behind this model is to teach people in neighborhoods how to help each other in the first few minutes or hours following a disaster – before emergency responders are able to render professional help. Students will gain hands-on skills such as how to put out small fires, render first aid in a disaster situation, and perform light search and rescue.

The series of six classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings for three weeks, from 6:30 – 9:00 PM, and will culminate in a practical exercise to be held on a Saturday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The spring class will begin this Monday, March 21st and end on April 9th. Classes will be held at the DuPont Fire Station. Instructors will be uniformed firefighters and other subject matter experts. The classes are FREE and are open to 25 students. It is important that if you enroll you are able to attend all sessions to receive your CERT certificate. Contact Fire Chief Greg Hull at (253) 377-7289 or Battalion Chief Greg Cooper at (253) 377-3245 for additional information. To enroll, contact Vincent Martinez at (253) 983-4580 or vmartinez@lakewoodfire.org.

4. Grocery Store Update

Representatives from Harbor Greens Market applied for a temporary use permit this past week to operate a mobile “grocery store” in DuPont on the weekends. This temporary concept allows them to “test the waters” and gauge the interest of our citizens and businesses to support a grocery store in our community. Harbor Greens – whose mission is “serving an exceptional food experience” - specializes in fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as organic products. Stay tuned for additional details regarding location and hours of operation. The City is excited about the potential for a permanent grocery store to materialize from this venture!!

5. Sequalitchew Creek Watershed Council Restoration Project

The first restoration project of the year for the Sequalitchew Creek Watershed Council (SCWC) is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, March 19th. Volunteers will meet at City Hall at 8:30 AM and should come ready to work rain or shine. The restoration project is anticipated to include:

- Invasive species removal at various locations
- Removal of old chain link fence from Sequalitchew Creek
- Maintenance of native plantings and restoration near the Wilkes Observatory marker
- Placement of two benches near the Wilkes Observatory

6. Town Hall Meeting

Ninth District Congressman Adam Smith is looking forward to holding his first Town Hall meeting of the year t Saturday, March 19th at the DuPont City Hall from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. Congressman Smith will meet with constituents to listen to concerns, answer questions, and discuss issues facing Congress, including the budget, military and veterans, healthcare and more.

7. Upcoming Meetings – Week of March 21st – 26th

- Park Agency Meeting scheduled for March 21st has been cancelled
- City Council Meeting Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 PM
- Sequalitchew Creek/Edmond Marsh Committee –Saturday, March 26th at 9:00 AM

8. Council Agenda Items – March 22nd, 2011

- Appointments: Planning Agency & Salary Commission
- Presentations: Steilacoom High School Reader board; Remote Salmon Incubator Project
- Consent Agenda Items: Council Meeting Minutes; Claims Vouchers; Grant Letter of Support; Interlocal Agreement Amending Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies
- Discussion Items: Workshop Agenda Items; Pierce Conservation District; Review of City Council Rules of Procedure
- New Business: Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement

9. Community Development Department Update

- Liberty Inn Hotel – The Liberty Inn Hotel submitted a pre-application to expand the hotel at the corner of Wilmington Drive and Palisade Boulevard by 31 rooms.
- Hampton Inn & Suites – The City received building and civil permit applications and construction documents for review to construct a 4-story, 115 room, 74,500 square foot Hampton Inn & Suites hotel. The new hotel is being proposed on Lot 2 of the Barksdale Station plat.
- Planning Agency – The Planning Agency will continue their discussion of buffers around cultural resource markers at their March 28th meeting.

10. Parks & Recreation

Please call (253) 912-5245 or go to the City's website at www.ci.dupont.wa.us for registration information, questions on Parks & Recreation activities, or for volunteer opportunities.

- Many thanks to all who participated in the 2011 Shamrock Walk! Despite the wet weather, a good time was had by all. Special thanks to Anytime Fitness, Lacey Costco, DuPont Chiropractic Center, and McNamara's for their support. Also, many thanks to the DuPont Lions Club for their help with intersection control.
- Opening Day is just eight days away! Plan to attend the 2011 Baseball Jamboree on Saturday, March 26th. This special day includes team photos, mini games and ballpark snacks. All community members are encouraged to attend. Mayor Tamara Jenkins will be throwing out the opening pitch! The Jamboree runs from 11 AM – 4 PM at DuPont PowderWorks Park (located across from Pioneer Middle School).
- Registration opens April 1st for summer sports camps. The City is partnering again with Skyhawks to offer baseball, basketball, flag football and soccer camps.
- Mark your calendars to attend "There's No Place Like Home" on Friday, May 13th. This fundraising auction for Parks & Recreation is our major fundraising event of the year. We have already received fantastic donations from local businesses and residents. Tickets are \$15 and will be on sale beginning April 1st. Donations are gladly accepted at City Hall. Please contact Parks & Recreation at (253) 912-5245 if you would like to help with this event.
- Visit our website for information on other programs and events including Yoga, Track, Cheerleading, Dance4Life, Karate, Baseball Day at Cheney Stadium, and more!

11. Comcast Offers Free Phone Calls to Japan

To help unite families and friends in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Comcast has announced it is providing free calls to Japan for its Xfinity Voice and Business Class Voice customers. Comcast will remove charges from customers' bills for calls made to Japan during the timeframe of March 11th through April 10th, 2011. Credits and waived fees will be automatic and no action is required by customers. Comcast will cover fees for calls made to both landline and mobile phones. Comcast's subscriber terms and conditions otherwise apply.

12. Most Magnificent Mutt Show

The Daffodil Festival's annual Most Magnificent Mutt Show is set for Saturday, March 26th. The free event will be held from 10 AM to 12:30 PM at Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian, in Graham. Registration begins at 9 AM and is open to children ages 2 to 14. Dogs must be on leashes, and an adult must accompany children. The first 50 entrants to register will receive a special gift.

Classes to be judged are: Best Tail Wagging Dog; Best Singing Dog; Softest Ears; Longest/Shortest Ears; Wettest Nose; Owner/Dog Look-a-like; Best Costumed Person with a Dog; Softest Coat; Roughest Coat; Coat of Many Colors; Best Smelling Dog; Best Farmer & Dog Team Costume; Pinkest Tongue; Ugliest Dog; and MOST MAGNIFICENT MUTT!

The event is sponsored by the Pierce County Fair, Pierce County Parks & Recreation, and the Daffodil Festival. The Daffodil Festival Grant Floral Parade is scheduled for April 9th. More information is available at www.daffodilfestival.net.

13. Tourism Update

Staff attended the Northwest Festivals and Events Convention this past week in Bellevue. A full report will be presented to the Tourism Board at their April meeting.

14. Pierce County Library Free Children's Event

Young people can explore the world of robots during a free event at the DuPont branch of the Pierce County Library. The **Robot Garage** program is part of a hands-one project with the Museum of Flight. Participants will practice basic engineering skills required to build an extraterrestrial rover. The program is open to grades 2 – 9 and is being held on Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 AM. Registration information is available at www.piercecountylibrary.org.

15. Tree Advisory Board Vacancies

The City is seeking interested applicants for appointment to the City's Tree Advisory Board. Applicants need not be residents of the City. Please submit a letter of interest that includes your relevant professional experience and your reasons for desiring to be appointed to a position, together with a copy of your resume to City Hall, Attn: Erin Larsen, City Clerk; 1700 Civic Drive, DuPont, WA 98327.

16. Japan's Nuclear Emergency: What it means for Pierce County

The Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health issued the following statement assessing the risk to this region from the nuclear emergency in Japan:

The severe earthquake and tsunami in Japan caused significant damage to the nuclear power plants there, and is posing a health threat for residents in the vicinity of the damaged plants due to the release of limited amounts of volatile radioactive material.

There are thousands of miles between the affected area in Japan and Washington State; due to the distance and wind patterns, we do not anticipate any radiation levels reaching Pierce County that would pose a health concern.

However, we are working closely with federal, state and local agencies that monitor radiation levels in our area. Should conditions change and pose a threat, we will take the appropriate action to help safeguard the health and safety of Pierce County residents.

Some residents are asking questions about the use of potassium iodide, or KI, as a protective measure against elevated exposure levels. This is an effective countermeasure when radiological conditions reach levels that could pose a health risk, as is the case for residents in close proximity to the power plants in Japan, but they are not necessary for Pierce County residents as there is currently no risk in the area.

Potassium iodide can cause serious side effects and can be harmful to individuals with certain medical conditions; it should not be taken unless advised by medical professionals. In the event that conditions change to pose a health threat, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department would work with state and federal officials to make potassium iodide available to residents.

Crises such as the earthquake in Japan remind us that an emergency could happen at any time. It is a good idea to review your personal preparedness plans to make sure you and your families know what to do in case of an emergency. Click [here](#) for more information about creating an emergency plan for your home.

17. Temporary Amnesty Program

Many businesses have struggled in these tough economic times. The State is also facing financial challenges. Recognizing these issues, the Legislature has put into place a temporary amnesty program. The goal of this program is to help businesses get back on their feet as well as bring more money to the State to fund essential services.

The temporary amnesty program, which began February 1st and runs through April 30th, 2011, waives penalties and interest on the taxes listed below for qualifying taxpayers:

- State business and occupation tax
- State public utility tax
- State and local sales and use tax, including:
 - General retail sales and use taxes
 - Rental car taxes
 - King County food and beverage tax
 - Additional sales and use tax on motor vehicle sales/leases
 - Lodging taxes, but not including tourism promotion area lodging charges
 - Brokered natural gas use tax

Details of the program are available on-line at www.PayMyTax.org. Applications must be received by April 18th. The taxpayer must meet all the requirements of the program, and pay all amounts due by April 30th, 2011 to qualify for amnesty.

Businesses interested in the amnesty program can go to www.PayMyTax.org and request a quote. The quote will let them know what they would owe and how much they would save by participating in the program. This program could be especially advantageous to businesses that have not been reporting to the Department of Revenue, such as unregistered businesses or businesses that have outgrown the active non-reporting status. Please submit any questions regarding the amnesty program to the Department of Revenue at amnesty@dor.wa.gov.