



# Administrator's Letter

## December 2, 2011

Dawn Masko, City Administrator



### 1. Weekend Holiday Festivities!

The holiday season has officially kicked off in DuPont!

Santa will officially arrive on Saturday morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Santa Breakfast at the Fire Station! Tickets were pre-sold to this event and it will most likely be sold out by the end of today. Many thanks to America's Credit Union for their support and sponsorship of this event. Families will enjoy a menu of Santa's favorites prepared with great care by McNamara's. Parents, don't forget your cameras! Many thanks to the DuPont Fire Department for their partnership with Parks & Recreation to host this community favorite!

Later in the evening, please join the community as we light the City's Christmas Tree at Ross Plaza. Festivities begin at 5:00 PM and will conclude by 5:45 PM. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while listening to holiday music. Please remember to dress for the weather as it is anticipated to be very chilly.



Much thanks are due to the many volunteers and staff who helped with the Christmas Tree and were instrumental in making the Tree Lighting event possible: Our Community Connections from the 6<sup>th</sup> CID at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, led by Captain Henderson, who donated the tree; Jeff Zurcher and the crew from CalPortland for donating their boom truck with personnel to get the tree to DuPont; Garco Construction for donating the timbers to support the tree; the DuPont Lions Club for their skillful decorating; Amy Walker for coordinating the festivities; and our Public Works crew for all of their efforts and assistance.

### 2. Stage 1 Burn Ban Implemented

Due to stagnant weather conditions and rising air pollution levels, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency issued a Stage 1 burn ban for Pierce and Snohomish counties effective November 30<sup>th</sup>. The ban is in effect until further notice. No burning is allowed in fireplaces or uncertified wood stoves during a Stage 1 burn ban. In addition, no outdoor fires are allowed. Additional information on the burn ban is available at [Burn Ban FAQ's](#).

### 3. Traffic Safety Grant

The DuPont Police Department has been awarded a traffic safety grant by the Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chief's. The \$3,000 grant will be used to add a laser speed measuring device and a handheld radar unit. The laser device is more effective in measuring vehicle speed on heavily traveled roads and multi-lane roads such as Center Drive. The new radar will replace an aging unit. The new equipment should be operational by the end of January.

### 4. Extra DUI Patrols Planned During Holidays

As a reminder, law enforcement will be conducting extra DUI patrols in Pierce County from November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through January 2, 2012. Officers from police departments across the County, including DuPont, the Pierce County Sheriff's Office, and the Washington State Patrol will commit extra patrol hours to make the roadways safer for everyone.

## 5. Upcoming Meetings – Week of December 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

- Parks Agency Meeting Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Tree Board Meeting Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM
- Civil Service Meeting Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

## 6. Parks & Recreation

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

- Youth services will be discussed at the Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> Parks & Recreation Agency meeting at 7:00 PM. Interested parents and participating youth in the community are encouraged to attend. Questions? Please contact Parks & Recreation at (253) 912-5245.
- Visit our website for information on other programs and events including Karate, Yoga, Track, Kidz Love Soccer, Dance4Life, and more!
- Want to know more? Like us on Facebook at "City of DuPont Parks, Recreation & Tourism".

## 7. Museum Gift Shop Offers Unique Holiday Gifts

Looking for a unique Christmas or hostess gift? Shop at the DuPont Museum Gift Store! Find great gifts under \$10 and \$20 for teachers, kids stocking stuffers, and those difficult to buy for! For the best selection don't delay. Visit [www.dupontmuseum.com](http://www.dupontmuseum.com) or stop by the Museum (207 Barksdale Avenue) on Wednesday, Friday & Sunday from 1– 4 PM and Thursday 11 AM – 4 PM or call (253) 964-2399.

## 8. Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

South Sound Outreach, a non-profit social service agency, is conducting a Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in Tacoma on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. The workshop is being held at the Tacoma campus of the Evergreen State College, 1210 – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Pre-registration is required. Please call (253) 593-2111 or (877) 751-3053 or visit [www.SouthSoundOutreach.org](http://www.SouthSoundOutreach.org) to register.

## 9. Fire Department Santa Run

Your DuPont Firefighters and Police Officers will be escorting Santa throughout the DuPont community on the evenings of December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. Santa will be handing out candy canes to children of all ages and dog treats to our four-legged friends. Santa will be escorted through town on the fire engine, but due to safety considerations, will only be stopping at intersections. Maps and estimated arrival times will be available soon the City's [website](#). Please remember that Santa is very busy this time of year and the arrival times are merely estimates.

## 10. Winter Weather Recommendations

The DuPont Fire Department wants to offer some helpful hints to get ready for winter weather driving conditions. Prepare your vehicle. Winterize your car by taking it to a trusted mechanic to check things like the tires for appropriate pressure and tread, the cooling system, the battery, and the wiper blades and washer fluid. Keep a winter storm survival kit in your car. This should include extra blankets, food and water, flares, flashlights, radio, extra batteries, chains, shovel, gloves, and first aid supplies. Dress appropriately before going outdoors, even if you are only taking a short trip in your vehicle.

More winter preparedness tips and resources can be found at [Take Winter By Storm](#).

## 11. “Moment in Time” – Advent Traditions

The tradition of making Advent wreaths that are displayed throughout the Historic Village began in the early 1970’s as a way to prepare for the upcoming Christmas season. Villagers gathered together and created fresh Advent wreaths which were lighted with electric candles and hung from the lamp posts throughout the Village. Early Advent celebrations included a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, speeches by local dignitaries, and Christmas caroling. Afterwards, villagers walked to the Presbyterian Church where they met for fellowship and refreshments of hot cocoa and Christmas treats.

The tradition of Advent survives today because Village residents and members of the DuPont Historical Society and the Presbyterian Church still gather each November to add fresh greenery to the Advent wreaths, which are lighted and displayed during the Holiday season. And while the venue may have changed for the event to Ross Plaza, the tree lighting and festivities continue on.

## 12. Disaster Resistant Business Toolkit™

A group of experts from the public and private sectors collaborated to develop a software tool that would assist small to midsize businesses build disaster recovery plans. Based upon its collective expertise, the 501(c)(3) non-profit named the Disaster Resistant Business (DRB) Toolkit™

Workgroup has developed an application that meets the following objectives:

- Improve economic resiliency of the community by reducing recovery time from all disasters
- Design an easy-to-use process for businesses with limited resources
- Create a tool that is user friendly
- Build a process easy to maintain and yet able to incorporate enhancements
- Strengthen the partnership between the public and private sector in disaster planning.

Statistics indicate that many small to midsize businesses fail to deal with disaster planning. A study commissioned by Office Depot found that a large percentage of small business have no disaster preparedness plan. The Workgroup found businesses have three primary reasons stopping them:

- Do not know how or where to start
- Difficult to acquire good/simple materials
- Cost and time are major impediments

The DRB Toolkit™ is designed to specifically address these concerns. The kit uses plain language, employs an easy step-by-step interactive guided approach and provides best practice solutions. And it is easy to update and enhance. The application provides a comprehensive, yet simplified approach for a business to build a disaster plan. The modular design allows each business to develop its plan at its own pace.

Unplanned disruptions, regardless if natural, man-made, large or small, each has the potential to create losses for businesses. The DRB Toolkit™ can help minimize risk by creating or enhancing a business’s disaster plan, training employees and exercising your business readiness against all hazards. Don’t be caught without a plan!

The DRB Toolkit™ is available **Free of Charge** to Pierce County small businesses and non-profit organizations. For additional information and how to order, please contact Hans Kueck, Pierce County Economic Development Specialist, at (253) 798-2335 or [hkueck@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:hkueck@co.pierce.wa.us).