



Administrator's Friday Letter

July 2, 2010

1. July 4th All-American Celebration and Operation We Love Our Military

The planning committee for our July 4th celebration has been hard at work to make this the best July 4th celebration yet. This year's celebration is also combined with the City's Operation We Love Our Military event. The day starts with the Historical Society's Annual Pancake Breakfast at 8 AM. The parade begins in the Historic Village at 10 AM with a patriotic celebration to follow in Clock Tower Park. Reader's Digest is recognizing DuPont this year as one of the top 5 cities for an All American 4th of July celebration in the United States.

Highlights of the festivities include Major General John D. Johnson of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, grand marshal, leading the parade in a Stryker vehicle, pony rides, a prize walk, parachute jump, K-9 demonstration, craft vendors, laser tag, and live entertainment (including Elvis and Blondie!) This event is sponsored by the City of DuPont, Northwest Landing ROA, Cal Portland and Costco.

2. Fire Department Historic Fire Engine

The Fire Department will have 2 fire engines in the 4th of July parade. Our Fire Chiefs will be driving DuPont's first mechanized fire engine, the 1963 Ford/La France. This engine was in service from 1966 until 1990. The firefighters have been working on restoring it for the past few weeks to make it road worthy and ready for the parade. The Fire Department hopes to conduct fund raising efforts to restore the historic engine to its' former glory and to use it as an educational tool for children. Citizens who want to help with this effort should contact Fire Chief Hull at 253-405-8048. Engine 25 will also be participating in the parade.

3. Clock Tower Stage

Following several weeks of construction, the new permanent stage at Clock Tower Park will be ready for use during this weekend's celebration. Many thanks are due to the ROA and the DuPont Lions Club for their collaborative efforts to make this new addition to the park possible.

4. Fireworks in DuPont

Fireworks can be legally discharged on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th from 12 noon until 11pm each day within the City limits. The City follows the Washington State legal fireworks regulations. More information regarding fireworks and an informational sheet showing the types of fireworks that are legal in DuPont can be found on the City website at www.ci.dupont.wa.us. Please remember to use all fireworks safely and be aware of any fire danger.

5. Firefighter's Complete Probation

The City's three newest firefighters completed their probationary testing on Monday, June 28th. The testing process included a written and practical exam and all three passed with 95% or better scores. Congratulations to Justin Tinsley, Earl Strausbaugh, and Joshua Tinsley!

6. Official Population

The Washington State Office of Financial Management confirmed DuPont's population at 7,930 people, 2,540 single-family homes, and 906 multifamily units as of April 1, 2010.

7. Police Department Grant Audit

The Police Department was recently audited by the State of Washington for grant funds received from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development in 2009. The department purchased tasers and a new computer with the funds. All paperwork and receipts were reviewed, as well as the City's purchasing process and drug-free and non-discrimination policies. We are pleased to report that there were no findings and the State was very pleased with our record keeping.

8. Land Use Application

Hampton Inn & Suites submitted a land use application on July 1st for a 116 room hotel next to the Better Business Bureau building. More information is available on the City's website or contact Bill Kingman at 253-964-5393.

9. Business Inspections

DuPont Fire personnel, along with Lakewood Fire inspectors, have completed approximately 50% of all business inspections in DuPont during the second quarter of 2010. The remaining inspections are anticipated to be completed by the end of the third quarter. Business owners should expect that these inspections will not interfere with normal business operations and should only take a short time to complete. The purpose of the inspections is to insure that proper fire and life safety codes are being followed to help prevent problems before they occur and to keep us all as safe as possible in the event of an emergency. Business owners should contact Fire Operations Chief Greg Cooper at 253-377-3247 with any questions or concerns.

10. Point Defiance Bypass Project

The Executive and Technical Advisory Groups had their joint kick-off meeting this past week to discuss roles, responsibilities and next steps in the collaborative planning process for the environmental assessment of the proposed project. Peter Zahn, Public Works Director, serves on the Technical Advisory Group and Dawn Masko, City Administrator, serves on the Executive Advisory Group. WSDOT plans to use aggressive public information and outreach strategies to seek comments from both the public and interested government agencies during this process.

11. Pierce County Library – New Service

The Pierce County Library System is launching a new service to further help our communities during this economic downturn. The Library is currently offering Job and Business Centers at four of their libraries – Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Parkland/Spanaway, and South Hill – with plans to open centers in Sumner (late summer 2010) and University Place (in 2011). At the centers citizens can get one-stop help to improve their job skills, find and get a job, and start and retain a small business. Additional information is available on the City's website.

12. Bill McDonald Retirement

After forty-two years of service to local governments, including the last seven years as the DuPont City Administrator, Bill McDonald retired on June 30th. A retirement open house was held that evening and was well attended by many citizens, colleagues, friends and family. We thank Bill for his tireless efforts to the City of DuPont and wish him only the best in his retirement and future endeavors.