



Administrator's Friday Letter

August 13, 2010

1. 1843 Fort Nisqually Site Celebration

The [DuPont Museum](#) and DuPont Historical Society will host an 1843 Hudson Bay Company Fort Nisqually Site Celebration & Nisqually Tribe Salmon Bake on Sunday, August 22nd from 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM. The site is across the street from the Civic Center.

Admission is free and open to the public but seating is limited so bring your own lawn chair. The Salmon Bake Dinner will cost \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids or bring a picnic lunch. The event is sponsored by the DuPont Historical Society and DuPont Tourism Bureau.

The Site Celebration and Salmon Bake will include a viewing of a Nisqually Tribal Canoe and a ceremonial blessing by Tribal Elder Joe Kalama. Other activities and attractions include Native American Dancers, an "Archeology Dig" for Kids, guided tours by historian Drew Crooks, live old-time music, antique gun display, historic Re-Enactors in costume, Ezra Meeker's 1906 Oregon Trail Wagon, wood-carving demonstrations, Make- it, Take-it needlecrafts and more!

New this year is a Volksmarch on the Historic Sequatchew Trail which begins at 9 AM at the 1843 Fort Nisqually Site.

For more information contact Johanna Jones, Museum Manager at 253-964-2399 or Lee McDonald, Historical Society President at 253-267-5267, or visit DuPont History Museum's website at www.dupontmuseum.com or the City's website at www.ci.dupont.wa.us.

2. Annual Food Drive

DuPont's annual food drive will take place August 7th – 14th. Local DuPont churches, the DuPont Lions Club, and Boy Scout Troop 472 delivered bags to every house, apartment, and condo on Saturday, August 7th. The organizations will be going back to pick up the bags between 9 AM and 11 AM this Saturday, August 14th. Organizers request you have your bags out by 9 AM for pick up where they had been left. There will also be donation boxes located throughout the business community. Last year food donations totaled 5,800 pounds and when non food items were added, the grand total was over 3 tons.

All donations will be delivered to the FISH Food Bank system. There are seven food bank sites serving individuals and families across Pierce County. In 2009, the FISH Food Banks served 313,776 individuals. Additional information about FISH can be found at www.fishfoodbanks.org.

3. Pierce County Flood Control District Update

Representatives from Pierce County gave a presentation at the August 10th City Council meeting, providing an overview of the special taxing district, purpose of its creation, what has happened so far, and continuing developments. Additional information is available on Pierce County's website at www.piercecountywa.org/fczd.

4. Skate Park Grant Update

The City Council discussed this topic again at their August 10th meeting and unanimously approved moving forward in the grant application process. The grant match funding source was changed from the Capital Project Fund to a one-time funding source from Glacier NW Settlement proceeds. Councilmember Michael Grayum will assist Public Works Director Peter Zahn in making the grant presentation next week to the WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The City is excited that we have received letters of support to be included in our grant application materials from Senator Mike Carrell, Pierce County Councilmember Dick Muri, Congressman Adam Smith, State Representatives Tami Green and Troy Kelley, Mayor Tamara Jenkins, Deputy Mayor Penny Coffey, Steilacoom School Board President Mike Winkler, the DuPont Lions Club, CalPortland, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The City should find out this fall how we ranked in the process. A citizen's volunteer fundraising committee will need to be formed to help raise money for this project to benefit the youth, and other interested skateboarders, of our community. Contact City Hall if you are interested in helping with this effort.

5. Classic Corvette Car Show

This Saturday, August 14th, help us welcome the Classical Glass Corvette Club for their annual car show. The club is adding Chevrolets to the show this year and expects to showcase 275 cars throughout the day. The event will be held at our beautiful Clocktower Park beginning at 9 AM and concluding at 3 PM. The day's events include the music of Randy Linder, food, arts & crafts vendors and more! The Pierce County Department of Emergency Management will also have a sign-up table for PC-ALERT, the new emergency notification system.

This event is proudly sponsored by Northwest Landing ROA and the City of DuPont Tourism Board. The forecast is for lots of sun and hot temperatures so please come prepared for the heat with lots of sunscreen and water. There will be some street closures in the immediate area of the park but traffic impacts should be minimal. Parking is available at State Farm Headquarters. Call 253-964-1289 with any questions about the event.

6. Interstate 5 – Exit 118 Revision

WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has completed the revisions to both northbound and southbound exits off of Interstate 5 at Exit 118 to address safety concerns and traffic conflicts, and to facilitate a better flow of traffic. There is now a stop sign at Center Drive as you come off of northbound I-5 at Exit 118 and a designated left turn lane has been added for vehicles wanting to go south on I-5 from Center Drive. Motorists are encouraged to be extremely alert when driving through this newly changed traffic configuration.

7. Upcoming Meetings – Week of August 16th – 20th

- Parks Agency Meeting Monday, August 16th at 2:00 PM
- City Council Workshop Tuesday, August 17th at 6:00 PM

8. District Court Contract

The City Council authorized the extension of our contract with Pierce County for District Court services through 2014 at the August 10th Council meeting. Per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 3.50.810, which addresses District Court judicial terms and notification requirements, the City is legally obligated to remain with Pierce County for court services through 2014. The City started negotiations with Pierce County in 2009 to address the impact of the economic recession on the City's ability to adhere to the financial terms of the existing contract. This contract extension will result in savings to the City of \$53,000 in 2010 and over \$100,000 in 2011 and beyond.

9. 1843 Fort Nisqually Historic Site

The Archeological Conservancy is the legal owner of the 1843 Fort Nisqually Site and currently allows the City to maintain the site and the Historical Society to host one educational event there annually. Both the City and the Historical Society believe that it is now time for the City to take ownership of this historic site and to facilitate its protection and interpretation for current and future generations. To help achieve this goal, the City Administrator sent a letter this past week to the Archeological Conservancy requesting the transfer of this site to the City. The Historical Society has also sent a letter this past week concurring with the transfer request. We will keep you apprised of any progress on this issue.

10. Property Tax Exemption – Civic Center Facilities

The City was notified this week that we were successful in challenging Pierce County to achieve property tax exempt status on our City Hall and Public Safety Buildings. The County had argued that these buildings were not tax exempt due to the financing method but the Prosecuting Attorney ruled in our favor. This will save the City almost \$62,000 in property taxes in 2010.

11. Meeting with Economic Development Board

The City Administrator recently met with President Bruce Kendall of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EDB). It was a productive meeting and we are all excited to see the downtown master plan concept being developed by a local property owner. Another topic evolved around ways to draw employees of local businesses out into the community to support other local vendors.

12. August 17th Primary Election – Answers to Common Questions

As the August 17th primary election approaches, Elections Manager Mike Rooney of the Pierce County Auditor's Office has posted a Question & Answer sheet on the County website to answer common questions from voters. Topics covered include deadlines for returning ballots, when polling places will be open, seeking replacement ballots, and registering to vote. Visit the Pierce County Elections website at www.piercecountywa.org/elections for more information or use the following link to access the Answers to Common Questions page:

http://www.piercecountywa.org/cfapps/internet/news.cfm?node_id=104934.

13. First Responders Day at the 2010 U.S. Amateur

Thanks to the support of Regence Blue Shield of Washington, the 2010 U.S. Amateur is pleased to announce that Wednesday, August 25th will be First Responders Day at the national golf championship. All active-duty and retired commissioned law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS providers and 911 dispatchers will receive complimentary admission to the U.S. Amateur on August 25th. Regence President Jonathan Hensley says "we are happy to have the opportunity to recognize the first responders who are on the job every day working to ensure the welfare of everyone who lives and works in this area. We thank them for their courage and dedication." To receive the complimentary admission, eligible personnel must present their official department ID or badge at the admissions tent. As a reminder, youth 17 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult. More information is available at www.2010usamateur.com.

14. Electronics Recycling Event

We are happy to report that the electronics recycling event held by Intel on August 11th was a big success. There was a steady stream of traffic through the collection area and they collected nearly 4700 pounds of PC's monitors and televisions – 20 pallets worth! Hopefully there will be additional opportunities in the future for similar events.

15. Public Safety Options

Mayor Jenkins and City Administrator Masko met this past week with Mayor Lucas and Town Administrator Loveless from the Town of Steilacoom to discuss possible opportunities for working together to address public safety needs for both communities. Our focus remains on continuing to provide quality levels of service to DuPont citizens and this process will allow us to explore options for potential partnerships and resource sharing for not only public safety but other enterprise services as well, with the intention of enhancing existing service levels. Additional meetings will be held in the near future between both Administrators to discuss possible options, including the pros and cons. These options will be discussed with both Mayors, with an anticipated recommendation by Mayor Lucas to the Steilacoom Council occurring their 2nd meeting in September. Mayor Jenkins will keep the DuPont City Council and community updated on information as it is available. Should the partnership discussion continue forward after September, expect a series of joint meetings between the DuPont and Steilacoom City Councils.

16. I-5 Expansion Planning Continues

WSDOT has submitted a \$3.6 million Federal TIGER II planning grant as a result of the Interstate 5 transportation study led by the City of Lakewood. The study developed an operations model for I-5 and the adjacent arterials intersections and found that congestion on I-5 and its interchanges will continue to deteriorate. The study also recommended improvements to several key interchanges along the corridor adjacent to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). If successful, the proposed WSDOT grant would fund additional planning requirements: an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to move forward with the study's recommendations. It is expected that the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) will issue a decision on the grant request by September 30th.

17. Regional Group Presentation to National Transportation Board

As part of the ongoing regional efforts to address issues relating to growth of the bases, representatives from Lakewood, WSDOT, JBLM, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the US Army and the Thurston Regional Planning Council were invited to present our area's experience with military mission growth and transportation impacts to the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. The committee was formed at the request of Congress to assess congestion on metropolitan road and transit at military base traffic issues. They are expected to issue recommendations to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs in January on federal funding strategies for road and transit improvements.

18. Building & Planning Recent Activity

- CalPortland recently submitted a building permit application and construction documents for a 4,800 square foot steel building to be erected within their existing plant facility. The proposed use of the building is to facilitate fabrication and maintenance of the expansive conveyor system utilized throughout the site.
- Hampton Inn & Suites was recently issued a Commercial Design decision with conditions. A staff report will be drafted in the near future and a public hearing will be held on the land use application. More information is available on the DuPont Project Status List located on the City website.