



Administrator's Friday Letter

July 23, 2010

1. Streets – Crack Sealing

The City will be partnering again this year with the Town of Steilacoom to complete crack sealing on a portion of our roadways. Crews will begin crack sealing working beginning Monday morning, July 26th on Center Drive at Palisade, and moving into Palisade Village. Work is expected to be completed by Wednesday, July 28th.

2. Pierce County Fire Ban

Pierce County has announced a county-wide Stage 1 burn ban which went into effect on July 15th and will continue through September 30th. This ban is prompted by forecasts calling for continued dry weather and applies to all outdoor burning except for small recreational fires in established fire pits at approved campgrounds or on private property with the owner's permission. DuPont does not have any established fire pits or approved campgrounds. Please be aware that no open burning is allowed on public property within the city limits of DuPont. The use of gas and propane self-contained stoves and barbecues will continue to be allowed under the ban.

Effective this year and in succeeding years a county-wide ban will be implemented annually beginning July 15th through September 30th. This is being done in order to maintain consistency and increase awareness of fire safety during the hot, dry weather in the summer months. The defined dates do not preclude declaration of an earlier or longer ban, based on weather conditions of each year. Citizens with questions may contact the Fire Chief at 253-405-8048.

3. Electronics Recycling Event

Intel will be hosting an electronics recycling event in conjunction with their Farmers Market on August 11th at the DuPont Intel campus. This free event is being held in conjunction with the State board authority WMMFA (Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority) and is targeting residents of DuPont, Steilacoom and surrounding communities. Citizens are invited to bring old desktop and laptop PCs, CPUs (towers), computer monitors, and televisions for recycling. Intel volunteers will collect items from 11 AM until 2 PM in the DP3 parking lot at 2800 Center Drive. Please note that computer peripherals such as keyboards, cables, mice, scanners and printers are not included in this program. Large television consoles will not be accepted.

4. Municipal Stormwater Capacity Grant

The City was recently notified that it was awarded a \$90,962 Municipal Stormwater Capacity Grant from the WA Department of Ecology (DOE). These funds may be used to implement and manage storm water activities related to the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater General Permit.

5. Hoorah Banner

The Hoorah banner is still located in the City Hall foyer for citizens to sign. Once it is filled with signatures the banner will be sent to soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord currently deployed in Afghanistan. It's not too late to stop by and send your best wishes and support to our troops!

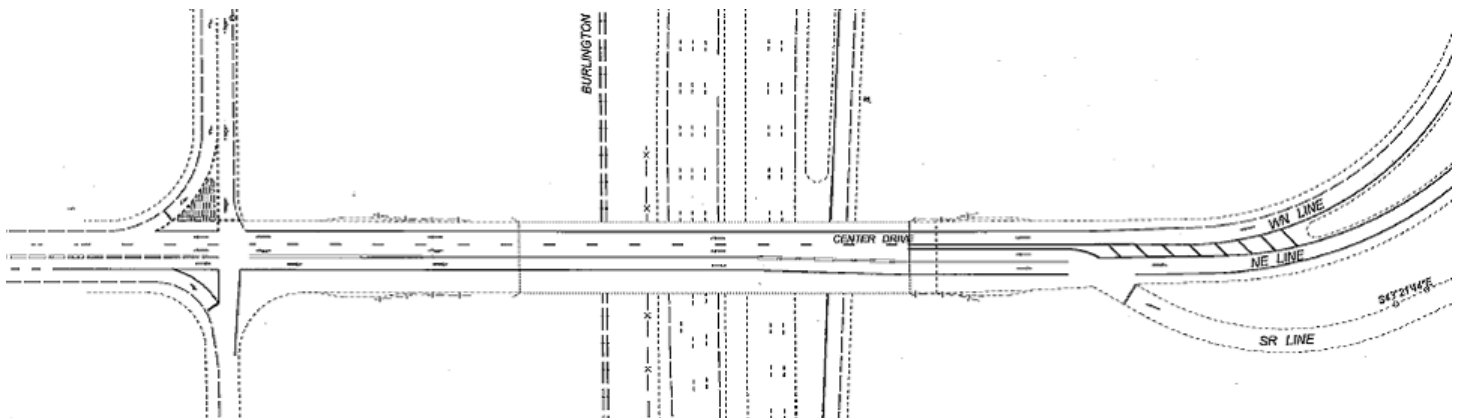
6. Center Drive Overpass Update

Over the past several months, WSDOT (WA Department of Transportation) has been working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Joint Base Lewis-McChord to address the use of the access gate off the base at the Center Drive overpass. Agency representatives met on July 19th to discuss WSDOT's draft analysis report and recommendations for continued access, including alternatives considered and immediate plans to address safety concerns and potential traffic conflicts. The FHWA has agreed to allow the continued use (exit only) during weekday PM peak period times only, with immediate next steps as follows:

- Agencies will sign a letter of concurrence and understanding regarding use of the access and improvements to be made;
- WSDOT will re-stripe the area around the Center Drive overpass within the next few weeks to create dedicated turn and through lanes that will separate Southbound I-5 traffic from through traffic at the overpass;
- WSDOT will continue work on an interchange access study and work with FHWA for plans to reconfigure how the access road enters the freeway on-ramp and will seek funding for additional improvements.

All parties have agreed to reconvene in mid-September to review progress. WSDOT will be placing traffic revision signs for drivers as the restriping occurs. While this is not a City project, City staff has been kept informed of project negotiations and developments. For additional information please contact Public Works Director Peter Zahn at 253-964-8121.

WSDOT plan for re-striping



7. Free H1N1 Vaccinations

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department is partnering with the Tacoma Rainiers to offer free H1N1 shots during the Sunday, July 25th home game. The game starts at 1:30 pm. Each person receiving the vaccine will be given two free reserved seat tickets. The vaccine will be available two hours before the game and will end after the 1st inning. Vaccines are available near the front gate.

Vaccines are available to anyone 6 months of age and up. Children under 10 years old need two doses of vaccine and will need to receive them at least a month apart. Children receiving their second doses should also bring their immunization record. For more information please contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at 253 798-6500.

8. Sequalitchew Creek Watershed (SCWC) grant proposal

The Mayor and City staff met with representatives from the Sequalitchew Creek Council to discuss revised proposals for utilization of their \$2,500 grant received from Pierce County Surface Water Management. The grant is intended to enhance water quality and habitat in the Chambers Clover watershed. Although this is not a City grant, the City administration looks forward to collaborating on projects that enhance our community while complying with adopted plans and policies. Discussions with appropriate parties and stakeholder groups will continue as we work towards a revised grant proposal to reduce erosion in sensitive areas, educate the community, and potentially provide trail links consistent with the DuPont Parks Master Plan.

9. Upcoming Meetings – Week of July 26th – 30th

- Planning Agency Meeting Monday, July 26th at 7:00 PM
- City Council Meeting Tuesday, July 27th at 7:00 PM
- Council Work Session – Strategic Plan Thursday, July 29th at 6:00 PM

10. Irrigation Reduction

As part of the 2010 budget reductions, the water usage for irrigation systems was reduced by 50%. Thanks to a cool and rainy spring the impacts of this reduction were not noted. However, as we continue into the drier, warmer part of our summer this reduction will become more apparent. Staff has been asked to explain how this 50% reduction works – i.e., watering every other day, 10 minutes vs. 20 minutes, etc. Unfortunately it is not quite that easy to explain, and utilizing only a day or timed programming approach would not recognize any amounts of rainfall or other variables which might affect water needs and could result in greater usage than we are targeting.

Following is the technical response to try to explain what the City is doing to meet the cost reduction target. To meet the 50% reduction target, staff has programmed our irrigation system controller (which uses weather station data) to run at 50% of the ET (evapotranspiration) rate it would normally run at. The ET rate – how much water is needed – is determined by a combination of factors including wind speed, solar radiation, air temperature, and plant material type. These irrigation systems are designed to provide the most efficient watering to meet what the landscaping needs in order to remain healthy. What we have done is to program the controller to “think” that the plants need less water than they would normally need based on the ET rate. For those who seek further detail into this, please contact Public Works at 253-964-8121.

11. Summer Camp Opportunities

There is still time left in the summer to sign up for one of the several sports camps being held in the City of DuPont. Skyhawks Sports Camps will be hosting flag football, baseball, basketball and soccer camps throughout the remainder of the summer. Our Kidz Love Soccer summer series is also underway. All camps will occur at DuPont PowderWorks Park. Please contact the City at 964-8121 or visit us online at www.ci.dupont.wa.us for more information and registration materials.