



Administrator's Friday Letter

February 26, 2010

1. DuPont Hosts Wellness Training

Thursday, February 25, 2010, the City of DuPont hosted a Wellness Leadership Forum conducted by Associated Washington Cities (AWC). The forum was attended by 13 Wellness Committee coordinators and representative for 7 different towns and cities. The purpose of the forum was to go over the application and requirements for winning an AWC 2011 Well City Award. Award recipients qualify for a 2% savings in medical insurance premiums for employees and their spouses in 2012. Should the City of DuPont win a Well City Award, the savings would be in excess of \$8,000. The City will also host the Drug and Alcohol Consortium Supervisors Training conducted by AWC slated on March 1.

2. Growth Coordinating Committee

On February 26th DuPont hosted a meeting of the Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) Growth Coordinating Committee. The committee discussed existing conditions and future needs resulting from an increasing military population. The goal of the year long planning process is development of the JBML Growth Coordination Plan that will identify and analyze community gaps that exist or are projected to occur in the southern Puget Sound region as a result of the anticipated military growth at JBLM through 2015. More info at www.jblm-growth.com.

3. Pt. Defiance Bypass Project

The City Council heard a presentation from the Washington Department of Transportation at its regular Council meeting February 23rd on the Pt. Defiance Bypass Project. The project would facilitate separation of passenger and freight trains through Tacoma and the South Sound down to Nisqually. This project had an earlier life as a phase in the extension of Sounder service to the new Lakewood Station. The availability of federal stimulus funds has caused a re-scoping. The impact to DuPont will be the movement of passenger trains on a rebuilt rail line adjacent to I-5 and the need to upgrade the Barksdale/exit 119 interchange. The Council will consider a Resolution on this matter at its March 9th Council meeting.

4. Recycling Markets Impact Garbage Rates

Pierce County Refuse, our contract garbage hauler has notified the City that the market for recycled materials has declined to the point that a recycling credit will no longer be given to residents with recycling service. In 2009 this credit amounted to \$1.59 per month. In 2010 the credit is replaced with a charge of 22 cents per month. DuPont residents are alerted to this unfortunate market driven adjustment. The City of DuPont does not set rates directly but instead uses the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission, which is permitted by RCW.

5. YMCA Youth & Government Opportunity

Delegates to the 63rd YMCA Youth Legislature will be meeting May 5 thru May 8th. These youth delegates are hosted by families in the South Sound region. If you are interested in being a host you may contact the YMCA at 360-357-3475 or youthandgovpdir@qwestoffice.net

6. Parks and Recreation Update

Staff has recently secured *Skyhawks* Summer Sports Camps to begin in summer 2010. These camps will occur at DuPont Powderworks Park and will include soccer, basketball, baseball and flag football. The Camps target ages 4-12. In addition to the summer sports camps, the City is offering Track & Field in partnership with *All Sports*. Track programs will begin in April and will continue through the month of August. This particular program draws families from Steilacoom, Lakewood & DuPont. Karate enrollment is up 33% from the month of January. This City sponsored class currently has 53 enrolled. The Shamrock Walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th. This annual fundraiser anticipates 200 participants. Tickets are on sale now for Parks & Recreation's Spaghetti Feed, March 26th at Chloe Clark. Staff is also working closely with the US Amateur planning committee. We are working with the City of University Place and the championship committee on signage, ticket sales, advertising and tourism opportunities.