



## Administrator's Friday Letter

March 12, 2010

### **1. Sprinkler Recall Update:**

The sprinkler head recall and replacement continues to progress at a pace that will have the project completed sometime around the end of April. Approximately 110 homes have now been serviced, with 135 homes yet to be completed. Of these 135 homes, 95 have been scheduled and approximately 40 homes have not responded to Comunale's request for authorization to make the necessary replacement. Home owners who may have questions are encouraged to call the Fire Chief at 253-377-7289.

### **2. CERT Classes Available:**

The Fire Department sponsored CERT Class (Community Emergency Response Team) is half full. These classes are aimed at preparing groups of citizens in our community to prepare for and respond to disasters. The classes will follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The series of six classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, starting March 30th. Citizens who are interested are again encouraged to call the Fire Chief at 253-377-7289.

### **3. Fire Chiefs Hosted:**

On Thursday, DuPont Fire Department hosted the monthly meeting of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Public Safety Building. Fifty-four Fire Chiefs and staff members attended the meeting. These meetings are scheduled to address common issues, share ideas and look at regionalization efforts throughout Pierce County. The Fire Chief received many compliments about not only the Public Safety Building but our community as well.

### **4. Census Forms Coming Soon:**

In a few days, you will receive a 2010 Census form. When you receive your form, please fill it out and mail it in promptly. Your response is important. Results from the 2010 Census will be used to help each community get its fair share of government funds for highways, schools, health facilities, and many other programs you and your neighbors need. Without a complete, accurate census, your community may not receive its fair share. Thank you in advance for your help.

- Sincerely, Robert M. Groves Director, U.S. Census Bureau

## **5. Planning Section News:**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved a text amendment to the DuPont Municipal Code regarding commute trip reduction. The updated Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map are now on the City website under Planning Department/Maps. A link to Planning Agency meeting minutes for 2008 and 2009 are on the City website under Development/Planning Department and Mayor & Council/Agency Info. We continue to see encouraging signals from the development community. The most important indicator is the increasing number of phone calls regarding new residential and commercial development.

## **6. Human Resources Update:**

**Police Sergeant:** After a thorough promotional process, Dana Smitley was promoted to the position of Police Sergeant effective March 2, 2010. Dana was a Reserve Officer for the DuPont Police Department from 1995 to 1998. In 1998 he was hired as a full-time Police Officer. He has over 950 hours of Police training and is a field training officer and the department's emergency vehicle operation instructor. Dana was sworn in by the Mayor at the March 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in front of his fellow officers and family members.

**Finance Director:** The City recently concluded an open competitive hiring process for the Finance and Support Services Director position. Sandi Hines accepted the position and will start employment April 12, 2010. Sandi is currently working as a Financial Planning Manager for the City of Kirkland and has been with the City of Kirkland for ten years. She has extensive experience in municipal budgeting and accounting as well as a double Bachelors Degree in Accounting and Business Administration.

## **8. City response sent to WUTC on Pt. Defiance Bypass Project:**

Following Tuesday's Council meeting, staff has responded to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) with the City's position regarding the planned modifications to the Barksdale rail crossing that are proposed as part of Bypass project. A copy of the Council Resolution opposing the WSDOT project proposal was forwarded to the WUTC as part of the City's response. With the filing of the City's opposition, the matter has been forwarded to the Administrative Law Division to begin the adjudicative process. The next step will be WUTC scheduling a pre-hearing conference with the City and project representatives to discuss the petition and project-related concerns.