



# Administrator's Friday Letter

## September 3, 2010

### 1. Skate Park Grant Update

Staff received an update today from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) regarding our skate park grant application. RCO sent out a notification to grant applicants that they have completed the application review and scoring process and the preliminary ranked list of projects to be recommended for grant funding is now available. The City's grant application was submitted to the RCO under the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category along with 62 other projects, totaling over \$24.7 million in grant funding requests for this category. We are pleased to report that DuPont's skate park grant application has been given a preliminary ranking of number **11** out of the 63 total projects! The next step in the process will be the review and approval of the preliminary project funding list at the RCO Funding Board's meeting in October. Upon Board approval, the final ranked list of projects will be sent to the Governor's office to be included as part of the State budget request. WWRP funding levels will be determined by the Legislature during the 2011 Legislative session. Although we do not yet have final funding approval, our high preliminary ranking indicates a good likelihood that our project will be included in projects that are able to be funded. Additional information on these grant programs is available on the RCO website at [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov). Congratulations to Public Works Director Peter Zahn and City Councilmember Michael Grayum for your hard work preparing the grant application materials and presentation which resulted in this favorable ranking!

### 2. School Zone Reminder

School is back in session and the Police Department wants to remind drivers to be extremely careful and observant of children on their way to and from school. This year the school hours have changed with Pioneer Middle School now starting at 8:10 AM and releasing students at 2:40 PM and Chloe Clark Elementary starts at 9:15 AM and dismisses at 3:45 PM. The 20 mph school speed zones are now in effect around our schools and motorists are also reminded that it is mandatory to stop for the flashing red lights on school busses. Both requirements will be strictly enforced. Let's all work together to keep our kids safe.

### 3. Grow-The Army Final Environmental Impact Statement

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) has released their Grow-the Army Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that analyzes Army decisions for growth and force structure realignment at JBLM-Lewis and JBLM-Yakima Training Center. The FEIS states that up to 5,700 new Soldiers would be stationed at JBLM with approximately 8,640 family members. JBLM and Yakima Training Center facilities and infrastructure no longer needed would be removed, existing facilities would be relocated to support new construction, existing facilities and infrastructure would be renovated, and new facilities would be constructed to support new populations and training activities. The data contained in the FEIS appears to be consistent with data being discussed as part of the JBLM Growth Coordination Plan process. The document is available online at [www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA\\_2.htm](http://www.lewis.army.mil/publicworks/sites/envir/EIA_2.htm).

#### 4. 1994 Settlement Agreement MOU Update

- Joint Statement by Parties to DuPont Settlement Discussions

In 1994, Lone Star Northwest (now CalPortland), the City of DuPont, the Washington State Department of Ecology and a coalition of environmental organizations entered into a settlement agreement regarding shoreline uses and the development of a sand and gravel mine in DuPont, Washington. The DuPont mine is the primary source of sand and gravel in the Puget Sound region.

In 2006, CalPortland applied for permits to expand the existing mine. In 2009, several of the organizations involved in the 1994 settlement agreement initiated a process to address how any expansion would follow the prior settlement. These organizations entered into a memorandum of understanding that called for the development of a feasibility study that would evaluate various alternatives to address potential effects of an expansion of the mine, including actions to improve water flows and fish habitat, and other strategies to rebuild fish populations in the Sequatchew Creek watershed. This memorandum also called for further discussions after the feasibility study was done.

New settlement discussions have just begun, using the results of the feasibility study to examine restoration options as well as expanded gravel mining. The parties are exploring whether they can reach an agreement on a schedule and conditions associated with the potential expansion of the mine, including actions that could be taken to restore stream flows and habitat in Sequatchew Creek, and other issues regarding environmental protections. If these organizations are able to come up with an agreement, there will be a public review process by the DuPont City Council before the City would sign the agreement. If an agreement is reached by the parties to the 1994 settlement, a revised project and mitigation plan would be submitted by CalPortland. The permit process would include normal public review and involvement, including environmental review and permit applications, before any action could be taken.

- Settlement Meetings

The parties to the 1994 Settlement Agreement have been meeting frequently with a mediator to discuss the issues described above, with more meetings slated to occur in September and October. We received sad news earlier this week that John Arum, the attorney representing various environmental groups involved with the settlement agreement, is missing in the North Cascades National Park after failing to return from a weekend climb of Storm King Peak. The search remains ongoing and includes helicopters, ground crews, and canine units. At this point all scheduling decisions have been put on hold until the search for Mr. Arum has come to resolution. We continue to hold out hope for his safe return and will keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### 5. Upcoming Meetings – Week of September 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

- City Hall offices are closed on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for the Labor Day holiday.
- Tourism Board Meeting                      Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM
- Parks Agency Meeting                      rescheduled to September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Tree Board Meeting                          rescheduled to September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

#### 6. Police Chief Recruitment

The City will begin advertising for our Police Chief position on September 13<sup>th</sup> with the recruitment period running through October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are working with the WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs on the recruitment process and all applications and supplemental questionnaires must be submitted to them.

## **7. Communications Survey**

Time is running out to participate in the Blue Ribbon Committee on Communications short survey. This survey is intended to solicit information on how effectively the City communicates with its citizens, as well as determine which communication mediums are being utilized by respondents. To participate please use the survey link located on the City website at [www.ci.dupont.wa.us](http://www.ci.dupont.wa.us). The committee will use this data as they prepare their report to be presented at a Council workshop scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM.

## **8. Recreation Opportunities**

There is still time to register for fall dance classes through Dance4Life. Together with Dance4Life, the City is offering 18 dance classes this fall. Classes range from beginning ballet to women's hip-hop. Classes begin the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>. All classes are held at the Community Center.

Registration is also open for the fall session of ZUMBA. ZUMBA is a fusion of Latin and International music dance themes that create a dynamic, exciting, and effective fitness system. A free kick-off class is being held on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. This is a six week class series that runs from September 14<sup>th</sup> through October 21<sup>st</sup> on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-9:45 AM. Classes are held at the Community Center located at 303 Barksdale Avenue.

Registration information is available at City Hall or on the City's website.

## **9. Wellness Program**

The City's Wellness Program is in full swing with launch of its latest campaign – N.F.L. This Association of Washington Cities (AWC) sponsored event is an eight week program designed to stress healthy habits for Nutrition, Fitness, and Lifestyle (N.F.L.). The kickoff for this program is on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> with an employee walk on the Sequelitchew Creek Trail. More information about the kick-off event and walk will be distributed to employees soon. The City will also be sending out regular updates and suggestions to employees during the 8 week program to help them attain their goals. This program, along with other Wellness activities over the year, works at promoting improved health and well-being of our employees. These activities are also part of the City's efforts to attain AWC's WellCity Award in 2011, which recognizes municipalities that meet nine best practice standards for employee health promotion. If we attain this award in 2011 we will receive a 2% discount on our 2012 health insurance premiums.

## **10. Public Safety Options**

City Administrator Dawn Masko met with Paul Loveless, Steilacoom Town Administrator, this past week to discuss potential opportunities for public safety partnering. It was mutually concluded that both cities would continue working together as we currently do: with mutual aid responses and joint training as opportunities allow. There will be more meetings in the near future to discuss whether partnership opportunities might exist with fire services.

## **11. Sequelitchew Creek Watershed Council (SCWC) Project Update**

The City has continued to work with the SCWC on their proposed grant project to ensure that all necessary City requirements are met. The project includes installing 100 feet of split rail fencing by the Wilkes Observatory to stop usage of a dirt trail down to the saltwater estuary, native vegetation planting on approximately 390 feet of the eroded trail, and installing trail use signage. Volunteer work is slated to occur on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **12. Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference**

Caregivers living and coping with Alzheimer's can spend a day learning from the experts. The Pierce County Healthcare Providers Council, in conjunction with Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care, will present a free educational conference for families and caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

The event is Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the University Place Presbyterian Church, located at 8101 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street West in University Place. Space is limited. Please RSVP by calling 253-798-8787. A complimentary continental breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference is designed to provide information, support and resources for families, friends and care partners of people with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia. Additional presentations will address what happens to the brain and what behaviors are expected, how to deal with challenging behaviors, accepting the diagnosis, financial issues and care options, and legal issues.

Cascade Park Vista is graciously offering to provide free adult day health care during the conference. Caregivers who would like to attend but are usually unable to leave their loved ones with dementia can take advantage of this free service by calling 253-627-9990.

### **13. Pool Party for Dogs**

Dog owners looking for a fun new way to socialize with their pets can treat their furry friends to a dip in Stewart Heights Pool from 10 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Following the end of the swimming season, four-legged friends will have the opportunity to paddle around with other dogs, lunge through the Lazy River and splash in the sprayground. The shallow end of the pool has a zero depth entry where the pool bottom slopes like a beach providing easy access in and out of the water. The maximum depth of the pool is 4 feet, 3 inches.

The Pool Party will feature two pool sessions: 10:00 to 11:45 AM and 12:15 to 2:00 PM. Admission is limited to two dogs per person. The entry fee is \$7 for the first dog and \$5 for the second dog. Humans are admitted free. Entry may be limited if the pool reaches capacity. Stewart Heights Pool is located at 402 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. For more information contact Metro Parks Tacoma at 253-591-2042 or [www.metroparkstacoma.org](http://www.metroparkstacoma.org).