

City of Port Orchard Mayor's Report



The First 100 Days... We recently passed the first 100 days since taking office, and I want to update our citizens on what has been accomplished thus far, and give you an insight into what future plans are in the works.



James Weaver

Planning Department Reorganized

The Planning Department, which is responsible for overseeing building and zoning, code enforcement, permitting, Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance, economic development, the City's Planning Commission — and of course, planning — has been completely reorganized and renamed the City Development Department.

The duties of the planning director have been realigned, and James Weaver was recruited specifically to run the department, with the title of City Development Director. I worked with James previously both in my capacity as a member of the Kitsap County Planning Commission and as Chairman of the joint City of Port Orchard/Kitsap County Sub-Area Planning Process. James was Kitsap County's Lead Planner on that project.

In addition to his experience with Kitsap County, James has also worked for the State of California and City of San Diego where he was intricately involved in several key projects that spurred the revitalization of that city's waterfront area, as well as serving with King County before joining Kitsap County.

He has done a stellar job completing the reorganization, and now, for the first time in almost five years, that department is fully staffed. I'm also proud to say that Port Orchard now has the fastest permitting time of any government jurisdiction in Kitsap County.

The Department's number one task is to update our comprehensive plan — which should have been done over three years ago — and bring Port Orchard back into compliance with the GMA before the end of this year. The draft plan is scheduled to be ready for public input by the end of July, with the final plan to be completed and submitted to the State by the end of September.



Mark Dorsey

New Public Works Director/City Engineer

Another major change has been to hire new City Engineer/Public Works Director, Mark Dorsey — another person I specifically recruited for this position. His experience includes working with North Pacific Design/Rush Construction for the past several years, as well as stints with N.L. Olson & Associates, Olympic Property Group, Port Ludlow Associates and Art Anderson & Associates. He is experienced in all phases of civil and public works engineering, and has worked on a number of projects in Port Orchard, including the medical and retail complex located at Sedgwick and Sidney Roads, the Harrison Medical Center complex on Tremont as well as its Oncology addition in Bremerton.

We also have a new Assistant City Engineer, Andrea Archer. She is a Port Orchard resident, and came to us from the City of Shelton, where she served in a similar capacity. Andrea also brings the Engineering/Public Works Department up to a full staffing level for the first time in several years. This means we will now be able to do most of our engineering in-house, instead of sub-contracting it out as has been the policy in recent years. That change alone will save the city substantial amounts of taxpayer dollars.



Andrea Archer

City's Web Site To Be Updated

An initial Request For Proposals (RFP) to update our Web site drew 28 bids. After analyzing those proposals, the City elected to readvertise the project with changes to the specifications aimed at reducing the long-term cost of maintaining and updating the site on an ongoing basis.

In the interim, we've made a number of changes to the current site, including adding email addresses for myself as well as the individual council members, so you can now contact any of us directly. We have also added a report outlining the status of individual permit applications so applicants can obtain information 24/7, and there are listings of volunteer opportunities and a link to track local sex offenders through a nationwide database.

All of this and much more will be included in the new and improved site, which will also allow us to begin moving towards electronic billing and payments for utilities. Check out our new, easier to remember Web address — www.cityofportorchard.us. The former one will also continue to work.



Kris Tompkins

Perfect Audit

Treasurer Kris Tompkins and the City's finance department recently completed their 17th perfect annual state audit in a row. Kris, who just celebrated 36 years with the City, and all of her people in the Finance Department, deserve a huge "Thank You!" for a job well done.



Paul Powers Park



Our infamous sinkhole has become somewhat of an offbeat tourist attraction



McCormick Woods residents have submitted a petition to be annexed into our city



Other "big box" retailers could be joining Lowe's at Sedgwick and Sidney

Park Grants and Improvements

Your City Council is focused on upgrading the condition of our parks. We have developed a parks plan and applied for two separate grants totalling \$600,000 for a major upgrade and construction project at Paul Powers Park on Sidney Avenue. Called the "Scary Park" by some parents because of its location behind our water tower, and its dark access path, it's seriously underutilized because of the fear its poor visibility generates. However, being located within walking distance of some of our major family-oriented residential areas is the main reason this specific park was chosen to be upgraded first.

If we receive the grant, the large open field next to the play area will be developed, and access will be improved. Play equipment will be upgraded and replaced, plus more added. The goal is for Paul Powers Park to become a family-friendly showcase facility we can all be proud of — and use without fear.

Streets, Roads, And Sidewalks

The City has prioritized the undergrounding of downtown utilities as it's top public works project for 2008. This will be done as the state repaves Bay Street this summer.

After being stalled for several months due to funding uncertainties, the Tremont Street Widening and Gateway Project is once again moving forward. Right of Way acquisition is currently underway and design engineering continues.

Plans for a pedestrian trail along the waterfront, and a connecting sidewalk running the length of Port Orchard Boulevard and connecting to Tremont Street are continuing to move ahead.

A sidewalk and stormwater project on Pottery Avenue at Cedar Heights Junior High is on hold after bids came in over double the engineer's estimate. We are exploring how to do this project incrementally, and grant opportunities to help fund it.

And finally, the sinkhole... Bids were opened recently and the engineering work, which includes relocating major water lines, is complete. Some previously unknown underground fuel storage tanks were discovered and must be removed. We are currently negotiating with the property owner — and FEMA — to determine the level of environmental cleanup required. However, you should see some visible progress just shortly.

Annexation

The City is aggressively exploring annexation opportunities in the surrounding designated Urban Growth Areas (UGA), including extensive work analyzing the costs and benefits of bringing McCormick Woods into the City. A number of property owners on the Mile Hill, Bethel, and Sidney Avenue corridors have applications ready for consideration once the county's development moratorium is lifted.

Economic Development

Port Orchard is now officially "Open For Business!" Our downtown is seeing significant private sector revitalization investment. Plans are in the works for two mixed use — retail, office, and residential — projects, which will require tearing down buildings on Bay Street, and rebuilding them in a style consistent with the Downtown Overlay District (DOD) design standards.

In addition to the recently opened Lowe's Home Improvement Center, there are also other substantial private sector investments being made in the Sedgwick-Sidney area. The City has already participated in some preliminary discussions with developers representing Target, and possibly some other big-box retailers

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Change Service Requested

