WellCity Designation
-Deborah Howard, Human Resources Coordinator

Have you seen this sign? What is a WellCity you might ask? It is a recognition given to a city that meets stringent best standards in employee health promotion.

For the 4th consecutive year, the City of Port Orchard has earned the WellCity Award from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Employee Benefit Trust. The City joins one of 96 cities and public entities that met the WellCity standards, which demonstrate their commitment to employee health. This year the City received three WellCity signs from AWC placed throughout the City.

Why develop an employee wellness program? When an employer meets the WellCity standards, they earn a 2% discount on their medical premiums. Medical premiums is a large piece of the City’s budget. A 2% savings

Upcoming Events
-Clerk’s Office
- Concerts by the Bay, Thursdays, Waterfront Park Gazebo, 6:30-8:00pm
- Port Orchard Farmers Market, Saturdays, 9:00am-3:00pm, Downtown
- Annapolis Sunday Market, Sundays, 12-5pm, 2065 Bay Street
- Council Meetings August 12 and August 26, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- Work Study Session, August 19, City Hall, 7pm
- Cruisin’ Sunday Car, Truck & Bike Show, August 24, Christian Life Center

Bikers Take Over Port Orchard
-Mayor Tim Matthes

On Sunday, August 3, all types of bikers took over the Waterfront Marina Park area for the first annual Live to Ride Motorcycle Show. The show, which was sponsored by local businesses Peninsula Triumph and Bay View Roofing & Construction, attracted well over 100 motorcycles.

Scott Carlson, event organizer and Bay View Roofing owner, said downtown Port Orchard is the absolute best location to hold their event, and he is already busy planning next year’s show.

There was plenty to do at this year’s show, including bounce houses and dunk tanks for the kids, vendor booths and food booths, and live music.

I had the honor of awarding 20 Mayor’s Choice Awards to my favorite bikes. With the great weather, great waterfront location, and all of the beautiful motorcycles on display, I was very impressed with the first Live to Ride Show in Port Orchard, and I look forward to attending next year.

The Taste of Port Orchard Committee invites you to attend the Taste of Port Orchard on Sunday August 31, at the Downtown Marina Waterfront Park
is a great incentive to look at the overall wellness of our City employees. It is about changing the culture by engaging our employees in how they look at their well-being in the workplace and at home. It doesn’t happen overnight, but supporting our employees is a positive way to have fun and be healthy, and we are slowly seeing changes. They are more engaged and motivated. Wellness is a holistic approach. Through the City’s wellness program, employees participate in wellness fairs, weight loss and walking programs, healthy eating incentives, flu clinics and preventative health screenings. A little humor is also added in, like a Crazy Olympic summer picnic or a King Kong challenge. It is all about engagement.

“A city that works on employee health sees increases in productivity, morale and employee retention, and decreases in absenteeism and injuries. Both the city and the community benefit from more productive employees, it’s a win for everyone,” said Mike McCarty, AWC CEO.

Every year employees complete a health questionnaire through AWC. It is an opportunity for employees to think about their own personal wellness. If we can support their efforts, we support a stronger healthier employee that will be successful in their job, which is serving the citizens of Port Orchard. The Mayor feels Port Orchard has some of the hardest working employees of any city in the state. We are proud to be a WellCity!

Public Works Project Updates

-Mark Dorsey, Public Works Director

The City’s Public Works Department has been extremely busy in 2014, with the budget year now over the halfway point. Many of the public works projects slated for 2014 are now complete, while others are just beginning. Here is a quick summary of project status:

Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway – Pedestrian Bridge
The pedestrian bridge to be constructed across Blackjack Creek as Segment #4 of the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway is currently in the final design/permitting stage. This segment of the overall multi-modal pathway project is funded by both the State and the City, and is anticipated to be completed by mid-July 2015.

Well 10—The City was successful in securing a $6 million Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan for the Well 10 improvement project. Well 10 is the City’s primary water source for future system demand. The request for qualifications and consultant selection process for both the final design and construction administration is nearing completion, with contract approval anticipated for August 12, 2014. The overall project is anticipated to be completed with a four year project window.

Bethel Corridor – 2014 Interim Improvements
Following the roadside ditch cleaning and shoulder restoration activities for 2013, the interim improvements to the Bethel Corridor continue in 2014 with the installation of ten mast-arm street lights, restriping and thermoplastic applications and the asphalt grind-out/asphalt repair. The design contract was awarded and the repair improvements are anticipated for Fall 2014/ Spring 2015. The Bethel Corridor Reconstruction Plan redesign/public involvement process is anticipated for the 2015 budget year.

Sidewalk and Street Improvement 2014
The City’s Public Works Department has completed the assemblage of a city-wide asphalt repair plan (similar to what was accomplished in 2013) and six sealed Bids were received by the July 22, 2014 deadline. The contract award is scheduled for August 12, 2014, and the work to be completed within the budget year. The City also completed several sidewalk repair projects (City Hall, Bay Street and Mile Hill Drive) as well as a major concrete panel lift project on Sidney Avenue, just north of Division Street.

City Parks 2014
In 2013, the Active Club and Van Zee Parks were the recipients of long-overdue improvements. This year, the McCormick Village Park - Phase I Improvements are the City’s Public Works Department focus. The Park is complete and the ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 11. Additionally, the City’s Planning Department is diligently pursuing grant opportunities to continue with the anticipated improvements.
Leak Detection 2014
The annual water system leak detection contract was awarded to Utility Services Associates and the 2014 work will commence in August. This vital Water Use Efficiency activity goes out for Bid annually, so that all of the City’s water mains are inspected for water leakage. This annual program also promotes the City’s Water Conservation Program by discovering leaks for Public Works staff repair, thereby saving both water and money for the City.

Spring Cleanup
Another successful year of garbage cleanup was recently completed by the cooperative efforts of the City’s Public Works and Waste Management. This semi-annual activity is making a positive impact on the City as a whole, thanks to the cooperative efforts of the City, Waste Management, and the citizens working together to help keep our City clean.

Storm Drainage Utility
Bids for the annual storm water quality/quantity mitigation pond maintenance program, roadside ditch cleaning along SR166 from Port Orchard City Limits to Port Orchard Blvd, and the annual storm water catch basin and pipe maintenance program were advertised on July 14, 2014, with bids due on August 1, 2014. Along with continuous street sweeping, illicit discharge detection and elimination, mapping of impervious surfaces and water quality outreach/education, these are just a few of the activities associated with the City’s Storm Drainage Utility permit requirements.

Flushing of Fire Hydrants
The flushing of water mains via fire hydrants throughout the Downtown and McCormick Woods areas was recently completed. When the City’s Public Works Department performs the semi-annually “flushing” of the potable water mains for the entire public water system, you will see a fire hydrant wide-open, thereby allowing water within the main to carry any sediment build-up to flow down the street and clear the main. This flushing process moves potable water through the water main at a very fast rate, to clean the lines and clear any stagnant water or sediment build-up to ensure that the water delivered to your home is of the highest quality. We appreciate concerns raised by our citizens who call about what may be perceived as “wasting water,” but rest assured we flush the lines because it is both a required and a necessary part of protecting our public health. Providing safe consumable potable water is mandated by State of Washington and the owner of each water system is required to flush their water system semi-annually, or more frequently if needed, so as to maintain the cleanliness of the distribution piping. We also appreciate receiving any calls relating to “dirty water”, because without your input we would not be able to detect problem areas within our water system.

Customer’s Views Welcome
Please call us at our Public Works Admin Office at 360-876-4991 or email publicworks@cityofportorchard.us with any questions. For billing information call 360-876-5139.

School Safety Education
-Port Orchard Police Department
Port Orchard Police would like to remind parents/guardians about school safety. Fall is right around the corner and thousands of our South Kitsap students will be headed back to school. The School District and our School Resource Officer (SRO) provide programs that focus on educating school age children on safety and have safety procedures in place for emergencies. However, parents/guardians are a very important part of providing guidance when it comes to keeping our youngest citizens safe:

- Be aware of putting your child’s name on anything that is readily visible. This might allow an abductor to get on a “first name” basis with your child and develop a sense of trust.
- Walk the route to and from school with your children, pointing out safe places to go if they are being followed or need help. Point out potential traffic & safety issues on the route.
- Have your child show you any “short cuts” they may be utilizing. Discuss the safety issues that may be present with the “short cut”.

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• Pedestrians age ten and younger should be accompanied by an adult or young adult on their way to and from school.

• Show your child how to cross the street by stopping at the curb and looking left-right-left for traffic before crossing. Practice this with them and have them demonstrate road safety techniques for you.

• Encourage your children to walk with people they know and you can trust. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children analyzed more than 4200 attempted abductions from February 2005 to March 2010; and found that 38% of attempted abductions occur while a child is walking alone to or from school, riding the school bus or riding a bicycle; 37% of attempted abductions occur between the hours of 2:00pm through 7:00pm on a weekday; 43% of attempted abductions involve children between the ages of 10 and 14; 72% of attempted abduction victims are female; 68% of attempted abductions involve the suspect driving a vehicle.

• Talk to your children about strangers approaching them and some of the ploys they might use. Stress to them that an adult or older teen shouldn't need a child's help to find a puppy or get directions; they should ask another adult for that information.

• Teach your children that it is okay to say "no" and if they need to scream to get help, scream "STRANGER", repeatedly, so people in a position to hear will understand the situation. Tell them to trust their instincts.

• Remind your children never to give the impression they are home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door. Never open the door for a stranger. Teach them about dialing 911.

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Back-to-School does not have to mean back-to-worrying. Though safety inside school is ultimately the responsibility of the principal, school staff, and Police, parents can take a few basic steps to ensure a safe school experience.

1. **Learn the school's emergency procedures.** Emergency plans and phone numbers are usually included in school handbooks and posted in classrooms. Taking a few extra minutes to familiarize yourself and your child with emergency information can give them the confidence they need to act quickly in emergency situations.

2. **Know and follow school security and safety measures.** These might include signing in when visiting the school, being escorted when walking through the building, or wearing a visitor pass. Following these procedures also sets a great example for your kids.

3. **Talk with your child about safety.** Be specific. Talk about instinct and paying attention to funny feelings of fear. Explain what to do if they don't feel safe (find a teacher, call 911, etc.). Make sure they know how to contact you or a trusted neighbor who is likely to be at home.

4. **Inform school staff about health and emotional concerns.** Whether your child has a food allergy, a physical disability, or has been subject to bullying, make sure to keep your child's teachers and principal involved. Make yourself available for contact and keep communications with school staff ongoing.

**Get involved.** Talk with the principal about what you can do to increase school safety, such as organizing parents to form a neighborhood watch before and after school. Sometimes parent groups are highly successful in making improvements in traffic safety during drop off and pick up times. If you would like more information on best safety practices or you would like to schedule a group presentation on crime prevention and/or best safety practices, please contact the Port Orchard Police Department at 360-876-1700.

**The Port Orchard Police Department hopes you have a smooth & safe transition back into the school time routines.**