Change of Watch

Allan Martin, City Treasurer

A luncheon honoring retiring Assistant Treasurer Monica Haarstad was held at City Hall on September 27. Joined by family and friends, Monica’s co-workers reflected on her long and successful career serving our City and citizens, first as a cashier/bookkeeper, and then as Assistant City Treasurer and Internal Auditor. Her 33 year municipal finance career resulted in an unblemished audit record with the State Auditor’s Office. Monica’s unwavering positive attitude and high personal standards will live on through those she mentored here at City Hall.

Our new Assistant City Treasurer is Rebecca Nichols. She earned her Associate of Technical Arts in Accounting Technology from Olympic College and came to the City with a retail and banking background. Since 2010, Rebecca progressed through a series of successful department initiatives and was instrumental in the finance department receiving the Distinguished Budgeting Award. In her new position, she will be responsible for the day to day affairs of the finance department. Rebecca and her husband James, who is employed at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, reside in Belfair with their two children.

Public Works Project Updates

Mark R. Dorsey, Public Works Director

As is the case each year, the City’s Public Works Department continues to be extremely busy with both routine maintenance activities and improvement projects. Many of the Public Works improvement projects slated for 2014 are now complete, while others are just beginning. Here is a quick summary of the improvement projects:

Demolition of Structures Located at 312 Alder Lane: In association with the future Tremont Street Widening Project, the vacant residential structure and out-building are to be demolished. The structures were surveyed for lead and asbestos, with none being present, and utility services have been disconnected. The Puget Sound Clean Air Act (PSCAA) Permit and the City Demolition Permit have been applied for and the demolition contract was awarded to Caseco Associates last month. The project is scheduled to be complete by November 30, 2014.

Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway – Black Jack Creek Pedestrian Bridge: Segment No. 4 of the federalized Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway Project—being the proposed pedestrian bridge across Black Jack Creek—is in the final design/permitting stage. The actual bridge fabrication and installation is scheduled to commence in the Spring 2015, having been pushed back to accommodate upcoming site activities associated with the Bay Ford property. Funding for this segment of the overall pathway project is through a Project for Jobs and Economic Development Grant through the State Department of Commerce.

City Parks 2014: The McCormick Village Park Phase I Improvements have been completed and the ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 11, 2014. City staff continues to pursue grant funding opportunities for the anticipated Phase 2 improvements, and will be one of the many 2015 Public Works projects if successful. In the meantime, the Park is open daily. The City also anticipates the installation of sport field lighting improvements at Van Zee Park in 2014 as well.
Leak Detection 2014: The annual water system Leak Detection contract was awarded and the work completed in September, with the final report for both the City and McCormick Woods water systems having been received from the consultant. Public Works staff will now make the needed repairs to the water system as recommended.

Fall Cleanup Week Program Dates: The continuation of the very popular Fall Cleanup Week Program has been scheduled for the week of October 20 thru 24, 2014. A list of items that will be picked up for free and items that need to be paid for in advance for pick-up can be viewed on the City’s website.

Storm Drainage Utility: Three annual activities associated with the Storm Drainage Utility have been awarded for 2014: Caseco Associates for selected storm water pond maintenance; FloHawks/NW Cascade for the cleaning of all catch basins within the City streets; and Pivetta Brothers for the SR 166 roadside ditch cleaning. All three projects are scheduled to be completed by November 2014. Additionally, the continuation of the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Storm Drainage Utility rate increase is scheduled for October 28, 2014.

Flushing of Fire Hydrants & Water Mains Scheduled for November 2014: The second of the semi-annual flushing of the City’s water mains via fire hydrants throughout the downtown area is scheduled for the week of November 3 thru 7, 2014.

New Man-lift at Work: In 2014, the City’s Public Works Department was authorized to purchase a man-lift attachment to reach areas of continued maintenance, such as tree trimming; gutter cleaning at City facilities; putting up/taking down the Festival of Chimes and Lights tree and decorating the downtown; installing and replacing park lighting; and many other uses as needed. The man-lift attachment is another removable component added to the Super-Single Truck platform purchased in 2011.

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.

United Way: Partners & Issues!

-David Foote, Executive Director, United Way

What a great summer we had and an eventful year here at United Way! At the end of 2013, United Way, the Kitsap Community Foundation, and the Suquamish Tribe became partners with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in a program called Building Community Philanthropy (BCP). This past year our work centered on how we could best invest one million dollars from a grant to help break the cycle of poverty within families. The answers were derived from a survey taken by the Kitsaps Community Health Priorities (KCHP), which helped identify the most important issues that need to be addressed. KCHP’s original members, United Way of Kitsap County, the Kitsaps Health District, and Harrison Medical Center invited the Kitsap Community Foundation to join the partnership. Working together with BCP, they zeroed in on the importance of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and how they impact a child’s ability to learn. The focus moving forward is to help children overcome ACEs and build resiliency. Additional KCHP priorities identified include: Mental Health, Affordable Housing/Homelessness, Community Health, Youth Substance Abuse and Prevention, and Living Wage Jobs.

In May, United Way became a sponsoring partner with the Kitsap Community Foundation on the first “Kitsap Great Give.” It was a very successful effort; with the help of many great sponsoring organizations throughout Kitsap County, we broke through our half-million dollar goal and raised $540,000 benefitting more than 100 non-profits.

In June, United Way held its first annual Golf Classic at Gold Mountain and raised $9,000 to benefit the Kitsap Rescue Mission. We had great weather and the fun company of two former Seahawks, Nesby Glasgow and Alonzo Mitz, who plan to return for next year’s tournament and bring along some additional Hawks. June also held another successful Day of Caring; on a rainy Friday, more than 40 projects were completed throughout the county.

On September 12, we kicked-off the 2015 United Way Annual Community Campaign, where we announced the Board of Directors’ new strategic plan with a major emphasis on early learning and the importance of helping children build resiliency to overcome the long-term effects of ACEs in getting ready for kindergarten. Early education is the key to improving graduation rates. Locally, 30 to 40% of children entering kinder-
garten are deemed not ready to start school!

The other United Way priorities to be targeted are: community health, with an emphasis on healthy living; homelessness and affordable housing, with an emphasis on getting the homeless off the streets, out of the woods and into safe shelters; and finally, continuing our efforts to provide for the basic needs for those who are struggling.

Government budgets have not loosened the purse strings; funding that non-profits and charities used to depend on must now be raised by community effort. Needs have increased and the number of individuals and families seeking help has grown. Amidst reports of an improving economy, times are still tough for many in our community. Recent articles in the Kitsap Sun, based on U.S. Census Bureau numbers, pointed out that the poverty level in Washington has risen from 13.5 to 14.1 since 2013 and while we have fared slightly better here in Kitsap County, our overall poverty rate, which stood at 8.5% in 2006, has now risen to 11.3%. Each year, as we kick-off another United Way Campaign, we hope to see these numbers on the decline.

As a community, we must pull together for this year’s United Way Campaign to raise awareness and dollars to help children, seniors, families, the hungry and all those the economy continues to leave behind. It is a fact that we can do more united than we ever can alone. Every dollar you pledge combined with all others pledged to United Way helps thousands of families here in Kitsap County. Please make a pledge today at your workplace, by responding to the letter you received in the mail, or online at www.unitedwaykitsap.org.

Fall Safety
The Fall Season is now upon us. After a hectic summer, fall is a great time to participate in local holiday events, go for an autumn drive to enjoy the changing of nature or just enjoy a cozy evening with loved ones. However, our daylight hours are getting shorter, our weather is worsening and driving becomes more difficult. Below are some basic safety ideas for keeping your family safe and hazard free going into our colder months.

Fire Hazards
Fires can start in several places during the fall. Fire is not just a summer problem. Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) reports almost half of home fires (47%) and more than half (54%) of home fire deaths occur in the cooler months of November through March.

Cooking equipment is the leading cause of reported home structure fires and injuries.

- Never leave your cooking unattended
- Keep distractions to a minimum
- When using a fryer, follow all safety precautions included on the directions.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths. In one of every five fire deaths, the fire started when something that could catch fire was too close to a heat source.

- Do a thorough safety inspection of all your heating units before utilizing them.
- Check the space around your heating units for any potential fire hazards.
- Make sure your heating units, fireplaces, fireplace inserts and chimneys are regularly serviced and checked for potential safety issues.

Driving Tips
When daylight hours become shorter and our weather worsens, drivers have less visibility which leads to less time to react to potential hazards on the roadways.

- Drive at a speed that is safe for the conditions around you. The posted Speed Limit is not always the safest speed when there are unfavorable conditions around you.
  - Under Washington Law, RCW 46.61.400(1) - No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event speed
shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

- Keep your attention on the roadways. Driving distracted can lead to collisions. This time of year, there are people and animals on or near the roadways that maybe difficult to see due to the dark hours or inclement weather. Always stay alert and ready to react.

- Allow yourself more time to get to your location. If you are not rushed, you will be a safer driver.

Walking Safety
We live in Western Washington. Rainy weather and darkening hours does not stop us from being outdoors. Pedestrians should be extra careful when walking in limited visibility and wet conditions.

- Wear bright clothing with reflective qualities when walking.
- Be vigilant about what is going on around you. Do not count on others to see and avoid you.
- Walking and texting is dangerous. Come to a complete stop in a safe location before texting or messaging on your phone.
- Being able to hear what is going on around you can save your life. Do not use earphones that block out all noise while walking/jogging. Keep music on low.
- When possible, pick routes that allow you to create some distance between you and moving vehicles.
- Tell someone you trust what route you will be taking and check in with them when you arrive at your destination.
- When walking your animals, place them on a leash that is short enough to keep them out of the roadway and harm’s way.

Safety Kits
It is not uncommon to lose power for extended periods of time in our region. In a major storm, power loss could be extended out for many days. In order to be safe and a little more comfortable in a power outage and/or a natural disaster, residence should have a safety kit stocked and in a place that is easy to access. Some suggested items to include in your kit:

- Two weeks supply of fresh water (one gallon per person, per day)
- Ample supply of candles, matches and functioning flashlights
- Non-perishable food items (enough to last at least two week
- Manual can opener
- First Aid supplies:
  - Large wound dressings and Band-Aids
  - Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
  - Family and emergency contact information
  - Emergency blanket
  - Pain medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.)
  - Antibiotic ointments
  - Anti-histamine medication
  - Alcohol or peroxide
  - Saline solution
  - Digestive medication (per your needs)
  - Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cell Phone and Solar Charger
- Extra Cash
- Warm Clothes and Blankets
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Full propane tanks or extra briquettes for outdoor BBQ’s (if available). Your BBQ* can be used for emergency cooking (*Remember to never bring indoors for safety reasons)
- Pet supplies and food
- Emergency radio
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Household bleach

*Drivers also should store a blanket, an extra set of warm clothes, and an emergency kit in their vehicles.

We all play a role in making sure our community is the safest it can be. This fall, we ask that you remember to slow down and do your part.

The Port Orchard Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.