Volunteers are the lifeblood of our city. Over the years volunteers have lent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars worth of time, expertise and hard work to make our city a better place. Whether they are serving on a board or commission, improving our City parks, coordinating events and festivals, or helping to patrol our neighborhoods, volunteers provide a host of services and expertise, and we are a richer community, in every sense of the word, because of them.

This Mayor’s Report is dedicated to all volunteers and the invaluable gift they provide our City, our neighborhoods, and our society as a whole. Volunteers exist among us in every area, including not only those who dedicate their time and efforts to assist our fair City, but the City staff and employees who after their shift is done, are committed to their community and donate countless hours of their spare time and efforts in the local community. All of our volunteers invest energy, skills, and talent to make Port Orchard a better place to live, work, and play.

As an elected leader serving the community, my inspiration is derived from you, our citizens, and what great things you accomplish in your volunteer efforts. Nothing great could be achieved without all our cooperative spirit and your appreciated efforts. Volunteers are the heart of humanity and the soul of a city, and our local volunteers truly represent the spirit of Port Orchard. I look forward to the great things volunteers bring to our community and hope you will join us in celebrating all the wonderful contributions volunteers bring to your City.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

~Winston Churchill
Volunteers are Good Business

**volunteerism**: The policy or practice of volunteering one’s time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one’s community.

Cities across America are facing challenging times with budget cuts due to the economic downturn yet still tasked in delivering needed services to their jurisdictions. Investing in citizen volunteerism is a positive strategy that keeps people connected and engaged in their community and helps maintain services for economic recovery and growth.

Research has established clear findings on the health benefits of volunteerism, incorporating overall levels of engagement as clear indicators of community satisfaction.

"Levels of civic engagement are an indicator of a community’s interconnectedness, of the sense of ownership felt by residents, of a city’s capacity to learn and adapt to serve the community, and of levels of social capital. Social capital is the networks, relationships, communication, and trust between people that contributes to social cohesion. Increased social capital has a positive impact on reported quality of life, access to economic and social opportunities, and even mental and physical health." (Design for Health, University of Minnesota).

The City of Port Orchard realizes the lasting and overall benefits of volunteerism and citizen engagement. It makes good business sense to support volunteer opportunities within the City as well as support volunteer efforts among its own employees. Volunteering leads to opportunities to learn new skills and develop existing ones. It helps strengthen the City’s relationship with the community and better its own organizational culture, which is instrumental to achieving business success.

The City of Port Orchard welcomes any person or community service group to volunteer their time to perform non-compensated services for the City, including but not limited to, practical work experience within the various city departments, park cleanup projects, police reserves and academic internships. Various departments are willing to create a position with a volunteer’s unique skills or interests in mind. Volunteers agree to abide by all relevant City policies and procedures and to perform the volunteer services in a safe, responsible manner in accordance with the descriptions of service. There is an application process along with an onsite interview prior to volunteering.

Individuals also go through a volunteer orientation, which covers City personnel and safety policies and procedures. Volunteer applications can be obtained through the City’s website at www.cityofportorchard.us.

- Deborah Howard, HR Coordinator

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**Spring Clean-Up in Port Orchard**

June 11th through the 15th was the City’s annual Spring Clean-up Week. This is the time where the City’s Public Works Department – in partnership with Waste Management – provides city residents with an efficient means to have assorted bulky junk items, beyond valuable re-use, hauled away for disposal at a substantially reduced cost (most common items are picked up for FREE!).

Immediately preceding Clean-up Week, three City parks enjoyed a much needed Spring Spiff-up. On Saturday, June 9th, volunteers from the Port Orchard area LDS Church visited Givens, Paul Powers Jr., and Van Zee Parks with gloves, wheelbarrows, clippers, and rakes instead of basketballs, skateboards, Frisbees, and rackets for a few hours of down in the dirt community service – Public Works style.

The Church-organized volunteer event, called “Service in the Community Day,” removed blackberry bushes, repaired fences, trimmed tree limbs, power washed playground equipment and ball courts, and even donated and installed a new backboard and hoop for the court at Givens Park.

Public Works looks forward to “Service in the Community Day” returning in the fall, tentatively scheduled to help with the Blackjack Creek Trail reclamation project. The City and the Public Works Department thanks this group heartily for their community spirit and hard work!
**City Volunteers**

**Volunteering Brothers**

Bobby Bonjukian, a student at WSU, will be spending from now until the end of July volunteering as an intern in the Police Department. Students interested in law enforcement-related careers gain valuable experience and knowledge by working with commissioned police officers while they perform their law enforcement duties.

Scott Bonjukian is a senior architecture student at Washington State University who is deeply interested in urban planning. “I’m interning with the Port Orchard planning department this summer to gain experience and see if planning is right for me. Although much of planning is policy, I’ve always been fascinated by urban design and transportation issues.

This summer I’m also redesigning the abandoned Kmart space in town to be something more beneficial for the community, such as an art gallery, apartments, community center, etc.”

**Samantha Carpenter**

Planning Volunteer, has a background in economic and social development which is a perfect fit for her time and experience in the Planning Department. “I wanted to participate in the process that helps my community grow, and felt that by volunteering I could show my kids that the best way to see improvement is to help out.”

**Service to Duty**

The Port Orchard’s Police Reserve Officer Program is comprised of community members who volunteer to fulfill many of the roles handled by full-time Police Officers. Currently the reserve program has 11 volunteer deputies who commit to training and serving the community in the same ways as full-time sworn officers — except many of the reserves also work separate full-time jobs and volunteer during their personal time.

These officers supplement the full-time officers in a variety of duties throughout the Department, performing general law enforcement, which includes street patrol, conducting preliminary police investigations, report writing, collision investigations, traffic control, issuance of citations, and other basic law enforcement functions. Reserve Officers are also utilized at special City events such as the Christmas tree lighting, parades, and street fairs.

Marixa Scott, Reserve Police Officer, feels the value in volunteering her forensics expertise is two-fold: it allows her to continue doing work for which she has a passion, and it allows a small community to enjoy the same benefits a large community experiences when they have full-trained experienced crime scene person available to assist with investigations.

Recently, she became a Reserve Police Officer to "round out" her law enforcement skills, and to broaden the scope of her ability to be of service. The support she has received from the Port Orchard Police Department has been phenomenal, and much-appreciated. No matter where she goes, the people make the Agency; and this Agency has a good group of people, with which she is glad to be associated.

**Annual Tip-A-Cop event for Washington Special Olympics**

Officer Jerry Jensen has years of experience serving and protecting the Port Orchard community. However, he also serves in a different manner. He along with Sergeant Jason Glantz and other Officers serve as volunteer "celebrity waiters" and the customers "tip" them at Amy’s on the Bay restaurant and all the tips the police officers make go directly to Washington Special Olympics. Tip-A-Cop is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Campaign Event for Special Olympics. The LETR Campaign is an actual running event in which law enforcement and athletes run the “Flame of Hope” to the Opening Ceremonies of local Special Olympics competitions, State Games, and National Summer or Winter Games. The LETR Campaign initiative encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles such as the Tip-A-Cop event in addition the Torch Run itself.
City Employees Who Volunteer

For the last 8 years, the City of Port Orchard employees have participated in Relay for Life and raised several thousand dollars through various fundraisers. These fundraisers include:

Bike raffle, monetary donations, ice cream sales from city-wide functions, Jean day donations, various luncheons offered to the city employees (St. Patrick’s Day, chili feed, taco bars, etc.), cancer awareness bracelet sales, and a city-wide silent auction.

We currently have documented approximately $15,000 raised since 2007. Funds raised from 2004 to 2007 have not been documented, but have been estimated to be about $8,000-$10,000.

Employees enthusiastically participate for the city-wide events, making each event a huge success. However, without the handful of employees who put forth their own time, treasure and talent to make this cause a success; none of this could be possible.

With a servant’s heart, employees venture out on their own time soliciting donations, purchasing food and other items for city-wide functions, setting up for events, calling on others to assist, and making sure the task gets done from start to finish for a successful outcome. No one keeps track of their hours, and there’s no complaining; but instead, a satisfaction knowing a great cause is being served and their reward comes from within.

Because of the dynamics of the different departments (locations specifically) employees don’t often get to know each other. This opportunity to volunteer and attend the many fundraising events has allowed us to come together and establish camaraderie with each other. I guess you could say it’s a win-win situation for all.

Special thanks to Jenine Dennison for all of her hard work and organizational skills in keeping the team on track. Thanks also goes out to Debbie Hunt, Brandy Rinearson, Rebecca Nichols, Deborah Howard, Maureen Wheeler, Tim Matthes, Olivia Hartline, Val Francom, Christy Price, Joran Palama, Monica Haarstad, John Robinson, and Kori Pearson for raising funds and participating in the event.

Deborah Howard, HR Coordinator for the City, volunteering at Corey’s Day on the Farm. An annual event founded by Coleta & Nick Corey in which special-needs children can enjoy a day of horseback riding, petting farm animals, being outside, taking hayrack rides and eating grilled hot dogs.

Rhiannon Fernandez, Deputy City Clerk, volunteers as a 4-H Youth Leader through WSU Extension. She leads a Lego Robotics Club for ages 5-10. The kids use laptops that leads the kids through the steps of the project. Once the project is built, they plug it into the computer and program their creations to move, respond to motion, and make sounds.