

June 21, 2019

I hope this month's letter finds you doing well and enjoying our summer. Kids are out of school so we will see more of them throughout the neighborhoods during the day. Please be mindful of pedestrians and bikers as you drive through our City. **There are several items of interest I would like to update you on.**

**The 2019 Washington State Transportation Budget allocated \$3.9 million to fully fund the expansion of DuPont-Steilacoom Road from two lanes to four lanes from Wharf Road to Exit 119.**

- Thank you to Senator Steve O'Ban, Rep. Christine Kilduff, & Rep. Mari Leavitt
- This has been a joint project with JBLM, Pierce County, & Port of Tacoma
- A new light or traffic division will be installed at Bell Hill St, which will help with access to DuPont-Steilacoom Road
- Construction is expected to begin in June 2021

**NTSB released their final report on the Dec 2017 Amtrak derailment near Mounts Road. They found serious systemic issues with the Federal Railway Administration, WSDOT, Sound Transit and Amtrak.**

- Sen O'Ban and I are calling for the Legislature to take action and create a panel from both the House and Senate Transportation Committees to provide the oversight and insure the NTSB findings are complied with prior to restarting service on this line.

**We received a determination from the Hearing Examiner this week related to development on Lot Y.**

- The determination upheld the City's environmental findings but surprised us with the determination related to access to Center Drive. This finding over turns almost two decades of previous determinations.
- We are pleased to get an independent determination and will need to study the new information before proceeding. I look forward to working with the property owner, the public, City Staff and Council on how best to proceed for appropriate uses of this property.

**The Community Center Feasibility Study is continuing throughout the summer.**

- Based on your input, the architect has presented two preliminary designs that depict options on City property for a community center that meets the public's priorities. Your continued input is essential for design of a community center that is tailored for our community.
- The Council will be looking at the results in September and deciding if the project should proceed to a ballot measure in 2020.

**A small solar panel array will power the irrigation system at Ethel Lumsdon Park.**

- Larry Clark of PW designed and installed the system. It saves us from having PSE install a new transformer and provides the power necessary to run the irrigation system. Great ingenuity by Larry. We are fortunate to have employees like him serving our City.
- We will look for other potential applications of this system to reduce reliance on external power and save taxpayer funds. The new PW facility being built behind the Public Safety building will incorporate solar panels as part of the design and construction.

**STANTEC, our contract-engineering firm, presented at this month's Council workshop. We have engaged them to work with Department of Ecology to develop a plan and cost estimate for us to clean the soil at the 1833 Hudson Bay Company site and Old Fort Lake and surrounding land.**

- The City owns both sites, located in the Old Fort Lake area, and would eventually like to be able to return them to public use as historic and recreational sites. This was an initial step that will require approval of both Weyerhaeuser and DuPont corporations before we can proceed to actual cleanup and use.

That is probably enough of an update for this letter. I hope you have a great summer. Please take the opportunity to enjoy the many activities sponsored by Parks and Recreation.



Mayor, Mike Courts