

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COUNCIL MEETS MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH AND 18TH 7PM AT RUSTON SCHOOL (JOYCE CENTER)
- METER READING AUGUST 21ST
- RUSTON SENIORS WILL NOT MEET THIS SUMMER
- COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AUGUST 25TH 7PM AT JOYCE CENTER SUBJECT: TOWN STAFF
- PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING DEVELOPMENT PLAN POINT RUSTON WATERFRONT, THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 7PM AT JOYCE CENTER
- DEDICATION OF THE MARY KRILICH JOYCE COMMUNITY CENTER 2PM, SATURDAY, JULY 26 AT JOYCE CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBER
- ELECTION TOWN MEETING: AWC DIRECTOR STAN FINKELSTEIN WILL EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNMENT. MONDAY, JULY 28TH JOYCE CENTER 7PM
- PRIMARY ELECTION: TUESDAY, AUGUST 19TH

MAYOR'S CORNER

How can a Town that sold school property for \$4.25 million dollars in 2006 have financial problems in 2008? The answer: Ruston's annual costs far outdistance its tax revenue. Remember that Ruston receives only 16% of the property tax and 10% of the sales tax collected. Meanwhile, we have the annual needs to provide services (think about gas prices), repair infrastructure and provide employee salary increases—as well as meet the greater expenses for planning, lawyers, and consultants necessitated by our recent surge in major development projects.

At the advice of the Town's insurer, consultant Steve Marcotte was hired last fall to review the situation. He concluded that "the current expense fund is not financially stable as ongoing costs exceed ongoing revenues." He projected that the sizeable imbalance between costs and expenses will continue until Point Ruston is "completed." Unfortunately, that may be 2014-2016 or later.

The Council wisely did what any responsible household would do—cut expenses and raise revenues. The Council moved aggressively to replace our expensive planning and legal services providers. It also eliminated all but the most essential consulting contracts and studies. And it began examining whether outsourc-

ing basic services would cut costs. The Council is also exploring revenues options. Other local communities offer some potentially rewarding ideas for cost recovery that we might adopt. The Council is looking at an array of Ruston taxes, fees and fines that are out of date. Many towns maintain a table of its taxes and fees which are reconsidered each year at budget time. Ruston has not done this and needs to begin.

As the annual budget process approaches, the Mayor needs to bring forth a budget proposal that balances essential current needs with the awareness that our nest egg must carry us for another six to ten years. The budget process must begin with multi-year planning so the Council understands the anticipated income increases and expenses two, three and four years ahead. We have never done this. The challenging is large but the Mayor and the Council are now working as one on this vital issue and I am confident we will together find solutions.

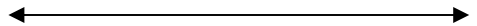
– Bob Everding

TOWN MEETING

On Monday, July 28, at 7pm in school Council chambers, Stan Finkelstein, Executive Director of the Association of Washington Cities, will discuss the Town's August 19

ballot measure. He will explain the differences between our present Mayor-Council form of government and the proposed Town Manager-Council form. He will also answer questions.

Be sure to attend so you can better understand the issue, and also be sure to vote on August 19.



YOUR OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Bob Everding 761-8455

COUNCIL

Dan Albertson 549-3612

Jim Hedrick 759-0544

Jane Hunt 759-2364

Bradley Huson 759-6391

Wayne Stebner 752-2041

Emergency — Dial 911

Police Department 761-0272

Non-Emergency Dispatcher 798-4721

(24 hour) Use dispatcher number to request a Ruston police officer contact you for urgent non-emergency reasons.

Municipal Court 759-8545

Town Hall 759-3544

Town Clerk Karen Carlisle

Utility Billing Clerk Myriah Mesa

Office Assistant Miranda Perry

Court Clerk Diane Turner

Police Chief Sharon Reese

Fire Chief Don Torbet

Public Works Steve Taylor

Steve Tucker

Building Official Frank Mellas

Building Inspector Joe Tedder

From the Ruston Police Department

All of us at the Police Department look forward to seeing you Tuesday, August 5th at the **National Night Out Against Crime** events on your blocks. Register online at www.nationalnightout.com and list the Ruston Police Department as the sponsoring law enforcement agency.

There are no rules for these events. Whatever your block chooses, getting acquainted with your neighbors is the most important part of this evening. From potluck barbecues to wine tastings, hot August nights invite being outdoors.

MARY KRILICH JOYCE TO BE HONORED

The Council passed a resolution declaring Saturday, July 26, "Mary Krilich Joyce Day" in Ruston where from 2PM until 5PM at the Ruston School there will be the dedication ceremony of the Joyce Center and a reception to honor Mary for 37 years of outstanding service. The whole town is welcomed. Share the cake, share the friendship, share this special moment.

WELCOME TO ROB WHITE

Ruston has a new town planner. Rob served seven years as Town Planner for Gig Harbor and is now a Land Use Consultant with North Creek Consulting.

NEW FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES

Did you hear all the honking, sirens and bells on the morning of July 7. It was just Don Torbet's totally-appropriate way to let us all know

that our new fire truck arrived. It is a beauty and worthy of all that early morning ruckus.

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

ORDINANCE 1253 – increases the gambling tax from a 1-12% sliding scale to a flat rate of 12%

ORDINANCE 1259 – creates a loading zone on Shirley in front of the school's main entrance

ORDINANCE 1262 – amends the budget to provide funds to hire a recording secretary for the Civil Service Commission

RESOLUTION 428 – supports the Ruston police joining other area law enforcement agencies in sharing resources

OPEN HOUSE

Point Ruston will host an open house at Ruston School On August 7th from 3PM to 6PM. This will give our residents an opportunity to view the projected development on the waterfront area of the Point Ruston project.

There will be an opportunity to have questions answered and plans explained.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Ruston Planning Commission will hold a Public hearing on August 7th at Ruston School at 7PM. The subject will be the Point Ruston waterfront development plan for the ASARCO site.

THANKS FOR OUR MANY TOWN VOLUNTEERS who are presently giving so much of their time and talents to the community

Planning Commission

Kevin Moser (chair)
Colett Judd
Cherrie Anderson
Charles Ranes
Brian Ficilia
Richard Pederson

Tree Committee

Ginger Kryger (chair)
Sue Huines
Lynette Hopkins
Robyn Zehel

Civil Service Commission

Connie Maglione (chair)
Bill Walker
Jon Anderson

Town Newsletter

Sherri Forch

RCW Codification

Sally Everding

Town Website

Chief Sharon Reese (chair)
Sally Everding
Lyle Hardin

Mary Joyce Celebration

John Schroeder (chair)
Sherri Forch
Bradley Huson