



DuPont City News

March 2015 | ISSUE 01

BALANCED, SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

Providing financial stability for our city continues to be my top priority and I'm proud of the significant progress we are making. The budget I proposed in October adds more money into savings, hires an additional Police Officer, enhances our new Reserve Program for the Fire Department, and adds more resources to care for our parks and greenways. It includes priorities you conveyed during the "Mondays with the Mayor" listening events, as well as interests shared by all our City Council members. The budget was unanimously adopted by the City Council in December with a few minor modifications.

Most importantly, the long-term revenue forecast I established two years ago shows the budget is sustainable for many years to come. The previously projected 1% deficit in 2018 has already been addressed with cost savings from our new Municipal Court and recently negotiated high-deductible employee health care plans. We will continue providing quarterly financial updates to the public at City Council meetings to keep everyone informed and make sure we stay on track.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE: 2015 PRIORITIES

My focus continues to be on moving our city forward. In addition to the five focus areas emphasized in the budget—Public Safety, Infrastructure, Quality of Life, Best Run Government, and Economic Growth—I'll be working on several long-term priorities residents and businesses have shared with me, including:

- Creating an **off-leash dog area**.
- Laying the groundwork for a **Community Center** that we can all enjoy by 2020.
- Making it easier for residents and businesses to **access city services online**, such as applying for permits, pay bills, and register for community events.
- Advocating for funding to fix I-5 traffic congestion.

If you'd like to help with any of these efforts, please call me at (253) 912-5218 or schedule time for us to meet in person by contacting Tiffany Graves at tgraves@dupontwa.gov.

ONLINE WATER BILL PAYMENTS NOW ACCEPTED

We've made paying your water bill easier. There are no additional fees and you can also receive your bills electronically. Go to our new website to sign-up, www.dupontwa.gov, then click on the "online services" link or go to "How do I" and "Pay my water bill." Next, we are working to establish online event registration and payments for other city services like recreation programs and facilities.

HOPE AND HEALING AFTER TRAUMA

You are invited to a free, confidential forum where Veterans, counselors and others will speak about ways of coping with post-war trauma on Sunday, March 15 from 3-5pm at the DuPont Emergency Operations Center, 1700 Civic Drive. This is the first of a series of workshops to help DuPont's military families seeking hope and healing. Please contact Kathleen Kenna at kkcounsels@gmail.com or (253) 753-4481 for more information.



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GRAYUM

We have so many exciting things happening in DuPont! We received great media exposure with the grand opening of Amazon's distribution center—creating up to 900 jobs and employment opportunities for veterans. The Home Course was selected as one of the Local Qualifying Sites for the 2015 U.S. Open, which will bring golfers from around the world to compete for the national championship. Additionally, the U.S. Golf Assoc. chose DuPont as the place where their officials and staff will stay throughout the preparation and competition of the U.S. Open, June 18–21. Next year, DuPont will be the launching site for the 2016 Tribal Canoe Journey—hosted by the Nisqually Tribe—bringing even more opportunities for tourism, economic development, and celebration of our unique history and vibrant future.

Building on these successes, we are working to attract a diverse mix of businesses, events, and emerging industries to DuPont by developing our city's first economic development strategy and updating our long-term plan for growth. While economic growth is essential, our quality of life is the reason many of us call DuPont home and it's important we keep this in the forefront as we continue to grow.

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT, IMPROVED SERVICES

My last newsletter highlighted many positive changes you've seen the past three years. We are doing things differently, focusing on the future, and taking city operations to the next level. City employees have improved services, reduced costs, and streamlined processes to better serve you. Here are some more positive changes resulting from our hard working employees and culture of continuous improvement:

- **New Website** - www.dupontwa.gov
- **Online Community Calendar**—featuring all city and community events, including the Northwest Landing Home Owners Association and Steilacoom School District.
- **Online Bill Pay**—you can now pay utility bills on our website.
- **Improved Civic Center Accessibility**—residents and community groups can now sign up to use the meeting rooms at City Hall and the Public Safety building.
- **Connect through a new Listserv**—sign-up to stay informed of the issues you care most about.
- **Measures for Success**—key metrics were included with my proposed budget to help evaluate the effectiveness of our investments. We will publicly review them each quarter to continually increase transparency and accountability.

IMPROVING I-5 / JBLM GRIDLOCK

City Council member Mike Courts and I recently testified before the Senate in support of proposed transportation investments that would relieve congestion along the I-5/JBLM corridor. The proposed Senate Transportation Budget includes \$450 million to upgrade three overpasses, add an extra lane, and ensure our roadway doesn't intersect with the high-speed railway planned by the Federal government. This is DuPont's highest legislative priority and reflects our city's ongoing work with many regional partners.

INTEGRITY GATE OPENING MARCH 2

Joint Base Lewis-McChord has opened their new "Integrity Gate". It includes a new traffic signal and another option for traffic flow to and from the military base to help relieve I-5 congestion. The gate opens to Steilacoom-DuPont Road and we remain concerned that increased traffic along this road could create backups for residential and commercial vehicles, causing delays and hampering economic growth. We are working with and urging our regional partners to make improvements to this important roadway, which is owned by Pierce County.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

POTENTIAL PIERCE TRANSIT BUS SERVICE FOR DUPONT

By *Mike Courts* | Residents and businesses have expressed a desire for local bus service. As your City Council member and President of the DuPont Transportation Benefit District, I reached out to several organizations and am excited to share that Pierce Transit is open to exploring this opportunity. In the next several weeks, we will develop a timeline to explore intra-city service in DuPont, as well as services to and from Lakewood, Steilacoom, and Lacey. Meanwhile, I urge everyone to start considering how you would use bus service and express your needs so we can ensure whatever we develop provides the best and most affordable service possible.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Volunteers are the heart of our community and we've made it easier for you to put your passion into action. There are many great ways to lend a hand. Please check our volunteer page on our new website, www.dupontwa.gov, or call our Volunteer Coordinator at (253) 912-5245 to help make a positive difference.

SCOOP DOG POOP

City employees recently filled a 13-gallon garbage bag full of dog poop from Ross Plaza. Help me spread the word about the importance of picking up after our pets and up to a \$500 fine if we don't. (DMC 1.17.110)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH

- 13 ROA Irish Beer Tasting
- 14 American Legion Post 53 Fundraiser Breakfast
- 14 Shamrock Walk

APRIL

- 4 Bunny Breakfast
- 4 Easter Egg Hunt
- 18 DuPont Baseball Opening Day
- 25 Parks Appreciation Day

MAY

- 2 Historical Society Cherry Blossom Tea
- 8 Parks & Recreation Auction
- 25 DuPont Memorial Day Ceremony
- 25 Wear Blue Memorial Day Run

Details about these and other events are available on the DuPont Community Calendar, www.dupontwa.gov.