



DuPont Friday Letter

Oct 30, 2015

“The 411...”

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My daughters are grown now, so my slang is mostly stuck in 2008. This edition is intended to lay down the 411 on community news and events. Pay particular attention to the last item: not looking for attention, just a little 911.

Trick or Treating Yes, we do that here. The Friday downtown event from 3-5 pm on Oct 30 does not replace the traditional Halloween night festivities. We don't have set hours to go trick-or-treating, either (I doubt that's a verb, but I'm making it one). Some helpful hints: only visit houses with the porch lights on lest you disturb the neighborhood grouch, set off an alarm or otherwise wreak unintended havoc. While there's no end time, try to constrain the candy hunting to a reasonable hour, like say, 9:00 or so. Trick or treat is a saying, not a lifestyle: the “tricks” you think are pretty funny usually aren't. Besides, do you really want to find out if that uniform is a costume or it's one of DuPont's finest? Are you feeling like I'm talking just to you, teens? Don't: people of all ages lose their minds on Halloween and I have seen some pretty shady septua-, octo- and nonagenarians on the loose lately.

Community Village Policing DPD is having a big meeting on Nov 12 at the Emergency Operations Center (the Public Safety building) starting at 6:00 pm. The Chief and the Department will roll out the Community Village Policing program. This is a new model for DuPont that will greatly enhance how we protect you. Learn what Community Village Policing is, what our new CRO will do (gotta come if you don't know what a CRO is), how you can participate and why this is going to help us make a serious run at #1 Safest Community in Washington. The first order of business is to come up with a catchy name with a cool acronym, so your marketing skills are requested. We're thinking “CVP” as an acronym falls just short of the mark, even if your nickname isn't “V”.

Off-leash Area (OLA) Community Meeting *THE MEETING IS NOW AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.* Join us at 10:00 to talk about an off-leash area in DuPont. By now, hopefully you know that no decisions have been made and that we're at the very beginning of the process. We need good ideas and a constructive conversation about next steps for making (or not) an OLA in DuPont. In the spirit of Halloween, let me say that pitchforks and torches are not necessary...we'd check them at the door anyway!



Council and Agency Updates

-The Council recently passed the Comprehensive Plan Update. Next steps are to work on our code to make sure it matches the new Comp Plan and update our critical areas ordinance. These two tasks will be complete by June.

-The Council is considering the Mayor's proposed budget. The balanced budget proposes keeping service levels the same or higher across the City, establishing a first-ever rainy day fund and putting more money into reserves. This is the time to let Council know what's important to you.

-Just about all our Boards, Agencies and Commissions have vacancies and we're still 0-for-3 on a Salary Commission. Our Boards and Agencies do a lot of bomb diggity things (that was to embarrass my daughters who read this thing, sorry). For instance, the Tree Board is setting up a City tree nursery that will save you hundreds if you need a tree, the Planning Agency just finished up directly shaping the future of DuPont with their work on the Comp Plan, and the Parks Agency will be working on an OLA if you decide it's something worth pursuing.

Election The election is almost here and it's not too late to vote. Fill out those ballots and drop them in the box on Ross Loop or mail them in. There's no better way to take charge of your own future than voting. (Okay, maybe a tad hyperbolic with dramatic license, but voting is important.)

I Dare You I will be away from work for about 6-8 weeks starting at the end of Nov. No need to get overly personal, and to my knowledge I'm okay. I have a condition known as “OLD” and I need some surgery. So, I DARE YOU to volunteer to take over the ridiculously important task of coming up with a Friday Letter while I'm gone. The only skill you need is the desire to put one out every week, even if you can't actually do it. Optionally, knowing that commas save lives is helpful, too. (Let's eat Grandma! Lets eat, Grandma! They save lives.) Drop me a line if you're up to the challenge. Happy Halloween, y'all!