

# Hoquiam Happenings



Newsletter  
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Editors: Alissa Thurman and Tracy Wood

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

So the phone rings and it is an old friend from Aberdeen who had a couple of things on his mind: he wanted to wish me a belated happy St. Patrick's Day and he also wanted to ask why there is so much good news coming from Hoquiam.

He used the St. Patrick's Day wishes to chide me as a fellow Irishman for eating tacos on that revered occasion. Yes it was true - but for good reason. St. Patrick's Day fell on a Tuesday this year so when I took my insurance staff out to celebrate, we chose Foggy's at the corner of Simpson and Myrtle which had their weekly Taco Tuesday. That is a lot different from corned beef and cabbage but it highlighted the importance of being supportive of Hoquiam businesses. With the economy the way it is, we all need to circle the wagons and make sure we are supporting our local restaurants (Foggy's, Corner St. BBQ and Deli, The Oriole, 7th Street Sweet Shoppe, Alexander's, Lana's Hanger Cafe, McDonalds, Al's HumDinger, Grizzlies Den, Domino's Pizza, Deidra's Deli, Golden Dragon, Los Arcos, Stiffy's and Subway) and other retail stores and professional offices. Each employs fellow Hoquiamites and purchase supplies from other local businesses which in turn employ people who then shop locally and purchase goods and service. As you can see, it is important to give Hoquiam businesses the first opportunity. If they are thriving, employing people, and paying taxes that support our parks, public safety, and utilities, we all are better off. So Shop Hoquiam: The Real Stimulus Package!!

The other thing my friend wanted to talk to me about was his observation that there is a lot of positive news in Hoquiam unlike the more negative news coming from other local, state and federal governments. He is right. Certainly Hoquiam has had its turn in the barrel of bad news in the past but right now we are hitting on all cylinders. Finance Director Mike Folkers recently gave the City Council our 2008 year end financial report. Unlike the usual mind-numbing columns of numbers, it was more narrative in format and was great reading. The bottom line is that the City of Hoquiam in 2008 received more revenues than forecast and we underspent our budget. Taken together, this means we are able to add to our reserves for the inevitable "rainy day", we are not facing staffing and service cuts, and we can make further investments in economic development (jobs) and other community development goals of our Hometown Hoquiam plan.

Much of the credit for our strong financial position is our management staff at city hall. Led by City Administrator Brian Shay, Fire Chief Ray Pumphrey, City Attorney Steve Johnson, Police Chief Jeff Myers, and Finance Director Mike Folkers who pay attention to citizen needs, care about their employees, and manage their budgets well. They are supported by our very strong and experienced Street, Water, and Parks foremen Albert Watters, Al Telecky and Al Dick

(commonly known as "The Als"), deputy finance director Maureen Smedley, deputy police chief Jim Maloney and deputy fire chief Paul Dean. They are talented, energetic, and experienced.



We expect to sustain the good financial news for some time. The new Westway Terminals bulk storage facility next to Imperium, the new Paul Willis enterprise at Terminal 3 by Bowerman Field, the new Rite Aide (yes it will open!!), the pontoon manufacturing site at the end of 8th Street (I am VERY optimistic that we will get it), and other businesses that will locate in Hoquiam in support of the pontoon facility wherever it is built, give us great optimism for the sustainability of our wonderful home town.

While I got chided for eating tacos on St. Patrick's Day, it was a great opportunity to tell the story about shopping locally and spreading the good news about Hoquiam. The City Council, city staff, and I work hard at making Hoquiam a great place to do business and raise a family. We welcome your ideas and help. Email me at mayor@cityofhoquiam.com or call me at 580-9856.

**Runners lace up your shoes! City Sponsored Shorebird run is April 25th, start and finish at the Hoquiam Train Depot. Registration at 8:00am, race at 9:00 \$5.00 entry, 10K, 5K & 2Mile races.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Mayor's Message</i>	1
<i>Junk and Abandoned Vehicles</i>	2
<i>Water System Flushing</i>	2
<i>Community Garden</i>	2
<i>Tree City USA Designation</i>	3
<i>Port of GH—Public Meeting</i>	3
<i>Sidewalk Replacement Program</i>	3
<i>Lawn Mower Replacement Program</i>	3
<i>Graffiti Abatement Program</i>	4
<i>Fireworks Ordinance Changes</i>	4

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION** On April 24<sup>th</sup> the City of Hoquiam and Urban Forestry Advisory Board would like to invite the community to celebrate Arbor Day at the Hoquiam Farmer's Market. The celebration will begin at 3:00 p.m. with opening remarks by Mayor Jack Durney. The celebration will include planting of four ginkgo trees in front of the Farmer's Market by the local Brownies, Cub Scouts, Grays Harbor Young Professionals, and the Urban Forestry Advisory Board. Peter Goldmark, the Commissioner of Public Lands, will be in attendance to present the Tree City USA award to the City for their work in 2008. It is the first year that Hoquiam has received this national recognition.

At 4:00 the Arbor Day Riverwalk will begin at the Farmer's Market and will include a walk around the historic downtown riverfront. Participants will visit local businesses along the route and will answer tree trivia questions to be eligible for prizes upon completion of the walk. There is no cost to attend. The first 50 participants to sign up will receive a complementary Arbor Day water bottle.

## Junk and Abandoned Vehicles

By Orlando Howell, Building Official

Do you have a vehicle in your yard that looks like this? If you do, it is considered a junk motor vehicle and a violation of Hoquiam Municipal Code 7.63. Our citizens have expressed concern with accumulations of junk vehicles, solid waste and overgrown vegetation in Hoquiam. Our citizens make removing public nuisances a priority with City staff.



### A junk motor vehicle is one that is:

- \*Three years old or older
- \*Extensively damaged or has major parts missing
- \*Apparently inoperable
- \*Not licensed
- \*Less than a fair market value equal to the value of scrap in it
- \*Visible and not completely and lawfully enclosed within a building. A vehicle covered with a tarp is NOT enclosed in a building.

**How do you dispose of such a junk vehicle or vehicle parts?** Call a licensed vehicle disposer (a wrecker), give them the vehicle title, and request

it be removed from your property. Auto Wreckers are listed in the phone book yellow pages. For vehicles without a title, contact City Code Compliance at phone number 360-532-5700 ext 251 and request assistance in completing paperwork to remove the vehicle.

**What happens if I keep the vehicle or parts on my property and don't have it removed?** Failure to remove a junk vehicle, or any public nuisance, results in City staff issuing a written Notice of Violation & Abatement that requires removal of the nuisance within a ten day period. Failure to comply with the notice forces City staff to follow legal remedies to remove the nuisance at the responsible person's expense. Take pride in your property and our city. Make it safe and attractive. Our citizens request that property owners voluntarily remove the junk vehicles and other nuisances.



## CITY HALL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month and begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Hoquiam Timberland Library is still offering many family oriented events—ask the librarian about upcoming programs available!**

Hoquiam City Hall is open 8:00 to 5:00 daily, Monday–Friday drop boxes for payments are located at the front door of City Hall and also in the alley behind the building for customer convenience. Call us at 360-532-5700

**2nd Season for Community Garden.** Get Back to Your Roots! This is the 2nd season for the Hoquiam Community Garden. Grow your own organic produce or flowers, watch your landscape change as you come together with friends and family to garden and socialize. No experience is necessary, learn as you grow (or grow as you learn!) The Garden is located at Rayonier Point Park (behind the police station). Gardeners of all ages, ethnic and social backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to join. Applications are available at Hoquiam City Hall. (see garden continued on pg 3)

## Water System Flushing Program by Al Telecky, Water Department Foreman

The Water Department has established a preventative maintenance program to annually clean water lines and check the operation of fire hydrants throughout the distribution system. Field crews operate fire hydrants and blow-off valves to create high velocity flows that scour and clean the inside of water lines. This type of activity, often called “flushing”, is a common utility practice used to improve water quality and maintain the water distribution system. Minerals and other materials that accumulate in the lines are removed by flushing. This material is not harmful to your health but it can temporarily cause discolored water.

Customers may notice discolored water or a change in water pressure when

flushing is conducted in their area. When flushing is taking place, we recommend that customers check to ensure tap water is running clear before using it for drinking, cooking or clothes washing. Customers who experience some coloring or sediment in their water should let the water flow from their taps for a short time (5-15 minutes). Flushing their household or business plumbing after crews have completed their work should clear up any “stirred up” water.

Flushing activities often involve release of large volumes of water from fire hydrants or other outlets. Residents may notice this water flowing along the gutter line of the street. Residents

may also notice this water entering the storm drains.

Flushing activities begin on April 27, 2009 and continue until June 5, 2009. Because the distribution system contains about 60 miles of pipe, it is expected to take one month to complete the flushing. However, some portions of the water system require flushing on a more frequent basis. Water quality sampling throughout the distribution system helps staff determine which portions of the system should be scheduled more frequently for flushing each year.

For more information about the flushing program, call the Water Department at (360) 532-5700 ext. 236 or email [atelecky@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:atelecky@cityofhoquiam.com).

## Hoquiam Named Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation

Hoquiam has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry.

It is the first year Hoquiam has received this national recognition. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Hoquiam has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Communities that receive Tree City USA recognition not only have taken the time to meet these four standards, they recognize that:

- Trees promote healthier communities. Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- Trees moderate climate, conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Trees in urban areas reduce the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings.

Properly placed trees can increase property values, and buildings in wooded areas rent more quickly and tenants stay longer.

“A community, its elected officials and its citizens that provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks,” said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and they also provide environmental and economical benefits. Cities that are recognized with a Tree City USA designation go to great lengths to plant and care for the community forest.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at: [www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

## Information About the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, environmental, education organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## 2nd Season of Community Garden (continued)

There a limited number of plots which will be issued on a first come first serve basis for a fee of \$10 per plot. We are limiting 4 plots per family so others can enjoy the garden also! Work parties will be set up in April and May with opening day at the garden tentatively scheduled for May 16th! Call our Community Services Dept at 360-532-5700, ext. 240 or email [twood@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:twood@cityofhoquiam.com) to obtain an application or to get further information. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in the fun!

## Port of Grays Harbor - 28th Street Landing Recreation Lands and Facilities Plan

You are invited to provide input on the completed draft recreational plan for the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing, which includes boat launch, parking area, picnic facilities, and viewing tower. The Port of Grays Harbor has been working on a recreation plan to fulfill Recreation and Conservation Funding Board planning requirements to apply for recreation funds. Your input is an important part of this process to help identify 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landing facility recreational needs.

The drafted *28th Street Landing Recreational Lands and Facilities Plan* will be available for public comment through: **FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2009.**

You may retrieve a draft plan by contacting Diane Souron at 360-533-9544 or from the Port of Grays Harbor web site at: <http://www.portofgraysharbor.com>

## Lawn Mower Replacement Program

The City of Hoquiam in partnership with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) is planning a lawnmower replacement event this summer. In this program, individuals with old gas mowers can trade them in towards the replacement cost of a new fully electric mower. Currently, the City is planning for a June 6<sup>th</sup> event, however the exact details of the program are still being developed. Anyone interested in the program who wants to be placed on the notification list should contact Tracy Wood in the Public Works Department at 532-5700 ext 240 or via e-mail at [twood@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:twood@cityofhoquiam.com). Look for a press release in May.

## Sidewalk Replacement Program

Last year, the City of Hoquiam launched the Sidewalk Replacement Program to partner with citizens in order to replace their aging or dangerous sidewalk. Through the partnership program, the City crew will remove the existing sidewalk and perform the work necessary to pour and finish the new sidewalk. The property owner is only responsible for obtaining a permit and paying for the materials. Anyone interested in having their sidewalk replaced should contact Tracy Wood in the Public Works Department at 532-5700 ext 240 or via e-mail at [twood@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:twood@cityofhoquiam.com). If you contacted the City last year but did not get your sidewalk replaced, please call us to verify that your name is on the list and that you are still interested in the program. The City Crew will start replacing sidewalks again this year beginning in May.

## HOQUIAM EMBARKS ON GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The Hoquiam Police Department is starting an aggressive Graffiti Abatement Program in conjunction with several community organizations. The police department's CRIME WATCH volunteers will be documenting and cataloging graffiti while out on their regular residence and business check patrols. Once the graffiti is located, the next step will be immediate clean-up, with a goal of eradicating all graffiti within 48 hours. The department hopes to partner with the Hoquiam School District and the Hoquiam Business Association to create a community graffiti abatement team.

Not only is graffiti destructive, unsightly and often offensive, it is also a crime. The department takes a unified

stance against crime, violence, disorder and disregard for the law. Graffiti is a visible and contagious form of disorder that will quickly spread if un-



abated. The presence of graffiti implies that we don't care about our community. Once the Graffiti Abatement Program is underway, the city will also offer a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of graffiti suspects.

Hoquiam is known as the friendliest city because we

care about the appearance of our neighborhoods and we respect the property of others. If you want to help, contact Hoquiam CRIME WATCH at 360-532-0892 x 117.

We would like to remind the citizens of upcoming events in the City. The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Olympic Stadium will be April 9th. the Shorebird Festival will be held on April 24-26. The staging area for lectures, fun fair and field trips will be the Hoquiam HS. The On Track Art Auction will be held on June 6th. Tickets for the dinner and auction can be obtained through the Community Services Department by emailing [twood@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:twood@cityofhoquiam.com)

## FIREWORKS ORDINANCE CHANGES

The Hoquiam Fire Department would like to remind residents that changes have been made this year regarding the discharge of fireworks.

Hoquiam Municipal Code 5.20, Fireworks, has been amended as follows: 5.20.015 Dates and times consumer fireworks may be used or discharged. Consumer fireworks may be used or discharged each day between the hours of nine o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock midnight on the third and fourth of July, and from nine o'clock p.m. until one o'clock a.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> of the subsequent year, and as provided in RCW 70.77.311.

If you have any questions, please call Fire Chief Ray Pumphrey at 532-5700, ext. 260.

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