

I hope this letter finds all of you enjoying a great summer. Many things happening in DuPont that I want to share with you.

The big news I am pleased to share with you is an agreement we just completed with Amazon. After 4 years of negotiations, we have resolved several technical issues between the City and Amazon, the most important one to all of us is that Amazon has purchased the private portion of Wharf Road (the rest is federally owned) and has submitted permits to construct a new entrance/exit from their facility. If the building remains on schedule, by mid next winter, Amazon will begin using this access as their primary entrance and exit point. This means the Amazon truck traffic on Center Drive in front of Edmonds Village will be gone except for possible entry during periods of emergency or surge operations like the holidays or Prime week; to use Center for exit at any time is limited, even during peak times. Trucks are prohibited from exiting on Center for any reason after 10 PM and before 6 AM. My special thanks to City Administrator Ted Danek and City Attorney Gordon Karg for their work in completing this agreement. This agreement does NOT have any impact on the restriction to truck traffic on Center between Palisades and Wilmington- that is still prohibited.

The new "Concerts in the Park" schedule kicked off this month. We have five concerts this year (one more than last year). I hope to see you in Clock Tower as we continue this program. We wrapped up another season of Patriot League baseball last weekend. In 8 years, our youth involvement has grown from 40 participants to almost 360. My thanks to all the players and volunteers who make this the outstanding program it is.

Our new Fire Chief, Mike Keohi, started work this month. He brings extensive experience and many new ideas to improve our Fire Department. When you see him around town say hello.

The front two buildings of the Intel Campus are almost gone. Like many of you, I do not understand the economics of tearing these buildings down, but the owners of the property made that decision. A new facility will begin construction later this summer with the goal of opening mid-summer next year. When we are made aware of the new tenant, I will share that information.

There are several ongoing land use issues. The owners of the Old Fort Lake property requested an interpretation to our recently approved Development Regulations. Our Community Development Director, as required by our code, issued a researched and coordinated interpretation. Some DuPont residents have challenged that interpretation. The Hearing Examiner will hear that challenge on 11 July. Related to this action, the majority property owner in the Old Fort Lake area has appealed the development regulations governing that property passed by the Council earlier this year, to the State's Growth Management Hearing Board. This challenge will be considered in the fall and the City will be defending its regulations and Council decisions. A determination on the application for a proposed ARCO station was issued on 15 June. I mention these actions because we are in a period of commercial development. There are strong feelings for and against any development. I believe our City has strong zoning and development regulations that balance the desire to protect our quality of life while supporting property rights and economic development. Over the past couple of years, the Planning Commission and City Council did excellent work in creating the policies and regulations that govern development. I applaud and support the private challenges as expressions of all of our rights to question the decisions of our government. This means we have a healthy process and engaged public. The process will run its course; we will all accept the eventual outcomes and move forward.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will be holding hearings on the two Amtrak derailments from earlier this year (including the one in DuPont). These hearings will be broadcast on 10 and 11 July in City Hall beginning at 5 AM on both days. We will attempt to copy the broadcasts and make them available on our website.

I am looking forward to our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The one big change this year is our fireworks will take place at the Home Course. I look forward to seeing all of you during that wonderful event.



Mayor, Mike Courts