

**City of Ruston**

**253-759-3544**

**Est. 1906**

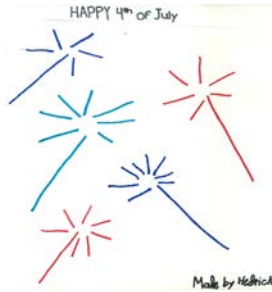
**5117 N Winnifred Street  
Ruston, WA 98407  
www.rustonwa.org**

**June 2019**

**Open M-F 9am-5pm**

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- City Council Meets: Council meeting of Tuesday, July 2, 2019 and Tuesday, July 16, 2019.
- Regular Council Meetings are held at The Mary Joyce Community Center, 5219 N. Shirley St, at 7:00 PM.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for meetings scheduled.
- **Ruston City Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019 in observance of Independence Day.**
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Annual Children's Bicycle Parade will be held Wednesday, July 4, 2019 at 12PM. Bring your decorated bikes.**



**by Charlotte Hedrick**

**Mayors Corner**

In May of last year, the Tacoma News Tribune ran an article on delinquent property taxpayers in Pierce County. Pt Ruston topped the list according to the article which ran on May 4, 2018. The bulk of what they owed was for property within the City of Ruston and according to their business plan, would intentionally run 3 years in arrears while they used the money to fund their development. The three-year total owed would have had an outstanding balance in excess of \$1 million dollars. Ruston does not get all the property tax revenue, but property taxes are our single largest source of revenue. By delaying the tax, the city must still fund our public safety and roads that support the development without receiving the revenue for it.

Fast forward to May of this year. In my budgetary monthly review, I noticed a significant decline in outstanding property taxes due. Researching the issue, I found that the Pierce County Assessor opted to reassess the Pt Ruston Parking garage based on an appeal from the developer. The assessment went from almost \$28 million dollars down to a shade over \$7.5 million. This resulted in a tax reduction of over \$275 thousand. The assessor has informed us that the prior two years are under appeal as well. If the assessor follows the same format this will result in another \$500 thousand tax reduction. The City had expectations that we would receive the taxes (albeit 3 years late) and had budgeted accordingly. To have those balances wiped off the books is difficult, and we struggle with the assessor's approach.

Nobody enjoys paying taxes however it should be fair and equitable. To have a building that had a construction value of \$29 million now valued at \$7.5 million is hard to comprehend. I don't know of any other property that has seen their assessments go down – everything just continues to go up.

You just have to ask yourself – is this really fair?

Thanks for reading – your mayor – Bruce Hopkins

## **From the Police Department**

Greeting friends,

We have all survived the rigors of the Taste of Tacoma weekend and hopefully you had time to enjoy some of the activities. As we approach Independence Day I must remind everyone that our town has a total prohibition on fireworks. Have a fun and safe holiday!

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

## **From the Fire Department**

We have four new members. Please help us to welcome Kevin Fowler, Derick Koegelenberg, Cam Rollosson, and JJ Melson. Welcome aboard, gentlemen.

The Fourth of July is coming up. Please remember that fireworks are not permitted in the City of Ruston. This includes sparklers as well. Many of us will be grilling out this summer. Please keep the following safety tips:

- Never leave a lit grill unattended. Never leave unsupervised children near a grill
- Don't wear loose clothing that may come in contact with the grill and catch fire
- Never use gasoline as an aide to ignite charcoal briquettes. Only use proper lighting fluid. Use the lighting fluid sparingly and never put it directly on an open flame
- Ensure coals are completely out before disposing of them
- Have a garden hose or fire extinguisher nearby in case of a fire

Thank you. Assistant Chief Bruce Allen

## **From the Public Works Department**

**RECYCLE- Pick up day is every WEDNESDAY**

The City of Ruston accepts plastics that are #1, #2, and #5. Numbers can be found on the bottom of the container. Containers must be clean. The City does not accept plastic bags, bubble wrap, foil, Styrofoam, glass or packing peanuts. Place these items in your garbage. We accept tin or aluminum cans and clean aluminum foil. The City does not accept pizza boxes or other food contaminated materials. Do not put tied plastic bags of recycling into the cart it must be loose recycling material in the cart. The City of Ruston needs to make sure we deliver only acceptable recycle to the Recycle Facility. Also, place carts two (2) feet away from car bumpers, each other and fences.

Please prune your bushes, plants and tree branches on your property and sidewalks.

Thank you. The Public Works Department

### **MAYOR**

Bruce Hopkins 253-759-3544 [bruceh@rustonwa.org](mailto:bruceh@rustonwa.org)

### **Council**

Jim Hedrick 253-759-0944 [jimh@rustonwa.org](mailto:jimh@rustonwa.org)  
Lyle Hardin 253-759-6227 [lyleh@rustonwa.org](mailto:lyleh@rustonwa.org)  
Deb Kristovich 253-988-8121 [debk@rustonwa.org](mailto:debk@rustonwa.org)  
Lynn Syler 253-223-7459 [lsyler@rustonwa.org](mailto:lsyler@rustonwa.org)  
Bradley Huson 253-759-6391 [bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org](mailto:bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org)

**If you need assistance to attend a Council meeting please contact City Hall at 253-759-3544.**

### **Emergency - Dial 911 or Non-Emergency Dispatcher**

253-798-4721(24 hour) Use dispatcher number to request a Ruston Police officer contact you for urgent non-emergency responses

### **City of Ruston Personnel**

Police Department	253-798-4721
Nestor Bautista	Police Chief
City Hall	253-759-3544
City Clerk	253-759-3544
City Attorney	253-759-3544
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755
Assist Fire Chief	253-330-7755
Public Works	253-759-3544
Permit Coordinator	253-759-3544
Building Services Code Pros	253-759-3544
<a href="http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement">http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement</a>	
City Planner	253-759-3544 Rob White