

**City of Ruston**

**Est. 1906**

**March 2023**

**5219 N Shirley Street**

**Ruston, WA 98407**

**[www.rustonwa.org](http://www.rustonwa.org)**

**253-759-3544**

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

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- City Council Meets: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 and Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7PM.
- Please refer to the Ruston website at [www.rustonwa.org](http://www.rustonwa.org) for updates on the April 4 and April 18, 2023 Council Meetings.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for scheduled meetings.
- Ruston City Council will hold a Council Retreat & Budget Workshop on May 16th. This special meeting will take place in the Mary Joyce Community Center, will be open to the public and will be prior to a council meeting. Join us at the April 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting for a presentation by City Planner Rob White on the Comprehensive Plan and Current Vision. This will set the stage for the May workshop. In the weeks after the April City Council meeting, we will conduct a brief survey of residents. We look forward to hearing from you as we prepare for our council retreat. Stay tuned for survey information in the April Newsletter!

**Ruston's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 10AM  
Located at 5117 N. Winnifred Street**

**For Bunny Patrol or to Donate Supplies please contact Lynette at 253-759-3544 x 103**



**Mayors Corner**

I'm happy to report we finally have the Baltimore Street work complete – at least in Ruston. Hopefully the Tacoma side of the project will be completed soon.

Due to ADA compliance requirements, the project was faced with significant challenges on Baltimore Street, therefore the intersections may look a bit odd on the west side. It was very difficult getting the grades required given the slope of the street. The contractors did their best given what they had to work with.

We have been working with the City of Tacoma staff on the Point Ruston EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). The developer is faced with the issue of reaching maximum density under the original EIS and the developer must now prepare a new one. The heart of the issue is surrounding traffic mitigation and other conditions, the developer will be responsible for. The EIS will be available for public comment shortly and we will be encouraging comments. The developer currently has one building permit that Tacoma is ready to issue for Building #9 which is the eastern half of the parking garage. While we remain optimistic that a building will get started in Ruston it appears the developer has many legal hurdles to clear first. February 6th marked the fifth year since our City was forced into an ILA (Interlocal Agreement) with City of Tacoma by our state legislators because of the developer's narrative that they could not get permits issued fast enough by the City of Ruston. Five years later and no permits – zero new buildings.

Hope you all can find the time to attend and enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM – always fun to watch.

Thanks for reading – your mayor – Bruce Hopkins.

### **From the Police Department**

The Point Ruston parking garage has been a location of choice for many nuisance crimes such as reckless driving (doing "donuts"), after-hours trespassing, noise, and other problems in violation of our Stay-Out-of-Areas-of-Racing or SOAR Ordinance. Recently, we can now add dangerous felonies to the list. We have been working with the owner of the garage, Serpanok Construction, to provide physical barriers which can be closed after hours.

Serpanok completely agrees with the need for the ability to close their parking garage with barriers, but apparently are subject to a legal suit from the previous owners who are challenging Serpanok's sovereign use of the structure. So, they are consulting with their legal team for guidance and hope to help us provide public safety in their spaces during this legal action against them. We need this space closed with barriers at night.

In the meantime, Ruston Police officers continue a no-tolerance stance to the after-hours trespassing at the garage, citing those who refuse to comply. I ask you to keep in mind that under current state law, police officers in Washington are under severe restriction on how to deal with violators who refuse to cooperate, and as mentioned in past newsletters may not pursue them if they merely drive away. Crime is up nationwide, but we now know it is even higher in Washington. When there is little-to-no chance of being arrested, prosecuted, and fined/incarcerated, why wouldn't it be?

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

### **From the Fire Department**

Here we are in the spring of the year! Looking forward to the nice weather and being outside with family and friends. Please remember that all outside recreational fires must be permitted. All the rules can be obtained with the permit. There is no burning of spring cleanup waste, please recycle this.

Thank you, Fire Chief Bruce Allen

### **From the Public Works Department**

Welcome Spring! Now is the time for pruning, keep an eye on trees and bushes growing around the perimeter of your property. Trim or cut branches that are growing into or overhead of sidewalk, alley, street, and service wires, maintain at least 15 feet from feed lines. The service line to your house is your responsibility. Please make sure to keep the meters clear of branches and obstruction and thank you for those that are doing their part. I have seen improvement to the safety of our sidewalk users. The Easter Egg Hunt is approaching! If you would like to volunteer to stuff eggs or donate to this memorable event, please stop by Ruston City Hall. Thank you for reading.

The Public Works Department

#### **MAYOR**

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

#### **Council**

Jim Hedrick	360-789-4700	<a href="mailto:jimh@rustonwa.org">jimh@rustonwa.org</a>
Deb Kristovich	253-988-8121	<a href="mailto:debk@rustonwa.org">debk@rustonwa.org</a>
Lynn Syler	253-223-7459	<a href="mailto:lsyler@rustonwa.org">lsyler@rustonwa.org</a>
Bradley Huson	253-759-6391	<a href="mailto:bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org">bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org</a>
Jennifer Jensen	206-853-1992	<a href="mailto:jenniferj@rustonwa.org">jenniferj@rustonwa.org</a>

**If you need assistance to attend a Council meeting please contact City Hall at 253-759-3544 x 102.**

#### **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	Judy Grams
City Attorney	253-759-3544	Jennifer Robertson
Fire Chief	253-330-7755	Bruce Allen
Public Works	253-759-3544	Ray Johnson
Building Services Code Pros	253-759-3544	Mike Barth
<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
Associate Planner	253-759-3544	Charles McKenna