

**City of Ruston**

**253-759-3544**

**Est. 1906**

**5219 N Shirley Street  
Ruston, WA 98407  
[www.rustonwa.org](http://www.rustonwa.org)**

**May 2023**

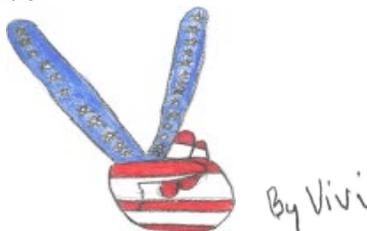
**Open M-F 9am-5pm**

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- City Council Meets: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 and Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7PM.
- Please refer to the Ruston website at [www.rustonwa.org](http://www.rustonwa.org) for updates on the June 6, 2023 Council Meeting.
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for scheduled meetings.
- American Red Cross Community Blood Drive: Thursday July 6th, 9am – 3pm, Totem Yacht Club. Stop by for a cookie and chat on the back deck even if you can't donate! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Ruston; Contact Jennifer Jensen ([jenniferj@rustonwa.org](mailto:jenniferj@rustonwa.org)) with questions or to volunteer.



- Ruston Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bicycle Parade will be held on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at 12 Noon. Parade starts at 51<sup>st</sup> and Winnifred St. Bring your decorated bikes, scooters, Radio Flyer, or anything you love in Red, White and Blue. Everyone is in the Parade!



**Mayors Corner**

A Council Retreat was held prior to our last Council meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The retreat was open to the public. Attendees got to hear each Councilmember's vision for the City, categorized into short term and long-term goals. The City Attorney moderated the event and did an outstanding job. Our City Attorney also serves as a Bellevue Councilmember, so she is a tremendous resource, providing us with insight into how the bigger cities approach exercises like this one.

Public Safety and Parks were discussed with some good discussion on where and how we can improve these areas. As always funding remains the most critical piece of the puzzle in our ability to realize our goals.

The City received a grant that will provide us with the ability to seal all the cracks in our roadways. This is very important for the preservation of our roads as water intrusion causes the asphalt to deteriorate at a much higher rate. This also helps prevent potholes from developing.

Thanks for reading – you mayor – Bruce Hopkins

**From the Police Department**

In preparation of the July 4th events in our area, the Department has been conferring with the planning committee. At this moment, we are in discussion with the event planners at the City of Tacoma and Tacoma Metro Parks, specifically discussing financial resources to mitigate the negative impact to our City. We are uncertain if they realize the impact moving part of the venue to Dune Peninsula has had on Ruston, since last year's event was the first since shifting it north. There are two considerations the Department is concerned about: nuisance behavior

within our City by event goers and the post-event egress. Last year, every Ruston officer was on duty, and this will happen again this year. When the event concluded we had set a temporary traffic plan to get event goers out of the area, which took all officers to do manual traffic control for over 90 minutes. Manual traffic control is unsafe as a general practice, but it was working well until the traffic became held up at traffic lights in Tacoma. We are considering 3 options this year. The first is to do nothing and let it flow out naturally; this will take hours and may lead to impatient drivers and bad actions by them. The second is to attempt traffic control again but was problematic as mentioned above. The third option is to completely close traffic leading up N. Baltimore and up N. 51st Street, forcing traffic through Tacoma via Ruston Way. June's newsletter will reveal the traffic plan for July 4th.

Ruston Police officers' traffic stop activity was 214% more in the previous 4 weeks than the same period of time in 2022. Our commitment to combating the racing problem in Ruston includes high-volume traffic stops. But we are also working with our business partners to find ways to shut down open space areas (such as parking lots) where racers tend to gather. The SOAR (Stay Out of Areas of Racing) ordinance has been an effective tool for enforcement.

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

### **From the Fire Department**

As a reminder to all our residents, we do not allow any outdoor burning. All recreational fires require a permit. Permits can be acquired from City Hall. Thank you. Fire Chief Bruce Allen

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

Spring is here! 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 15ft. from feed lines. The service line to your house is your responsibility. Please make sure to keep the meters clear of branches and obstruction, thank you for those that are doing their part. I have seen improvement to the safety of our sidewalk users.

Thank you for your time in reading this newsletter. The Public Works Department

### **From the Clerk's Office**

The City has completed the annual reset of sewer rates. Your rates decreased, remained the same, or increased based on your household consumption usage. This will be reflected in your utility bill due June 15, 2023.

#### **MAYOR**

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

#### **Council**

Jim Hedrick 360-789-4700 [jimh@rustonwa.org](mailto:jimh@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)  
Jennifer Jensen 206-853-1992 [jenniferj@rustonwa.org](mailto:jenniferj@rustonwa.org)

**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