

City of Ruston

253-759-3544

Est. 1906

**5219 N Shirley Street
Ruston, WA 98407
www.rustonwa.org**

September 2023

Open M-F 9am-5pm

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- City Council Meets: **Tuesday, October 3, 2023 and Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7PM.**
- **Please refer to the Ruston website at www.rustonwa.org for updates on the October 3, 2023 Council Meeting.**
- Planning Commission: Watch the bulletin board and the website for scheduled meetings.
- **Ruston City Hall will be closed October 9, 2023 in observance of Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.**

Mayors Corner

The corner of N. 33rd and Gove experienced a recent street takeover and was covered by King 5 News (<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/tacoma/street-racing-flash-mob-rattles-tacoma-neighborhood/281-773fd383-d746-4467-82da-100ad4dca6c0>). This event happened at a neighborhood intersection close to Ruston. Fortunately, the City of Ruston has important deterrents in place. The first being our police force and the second being our new road configurations. With our recent street projects, we have been installing pedestrian bulb outs that play a significant role in traffic calming. By installing the bulb outs the roadway surface area is shrunk and our streets are less attractive for a street takeover.

City staff have been fielding inquiries from potential bidders on the Point Ruston properties located in Ruston. One of the Point Ruston lenders, Terra Cota, has foreclosed and been placed in receivership. Just last week another lender, Aurc III, received a judgement against Point Ruston in the amount of \$87 million while TerraCotta's outstanding debt was listed as \$73.8 million. Needless to say, this project has some significant uphill battles ahead.

Thanks for reading – your mayor – Bruce Hopkins.

From the Police Department

As an ongoing strategy to demonstrate high police presence, and combat/discourage those who come to our City for the purpose of criminal activities (especially racing-inspired vehicles), Ruston Police officers are directed to conduct high-volume traffic stops when they observe any violation.

Last night, I presented the following summary our proactive law enforcement activities to the City Council for the period of January 1st through August 15th of this year (with comparison with same period in 2022):

- **Traffic stops in 2023 increased by 109%** (930 versus 445; source: South Sound 911)
- **Rate of enforcement is 112%** (meaning if a violator received a ticket, more than 1 violation was cited; source: courts.wa.gov)
- **Calls for Service increased by 25%** (any 911 or other call where a police officer responded; source: South Sound 911)

Additionally:

- **Ruston Police Department sent more cases to its municipal court than any other LE agency /municipal court in Pierce County.** (Cities with traffic enforcement cameras excluded; PCSO, Tacoma, Lakewood and Puyallup Police also excluded; source courts.wa.gov). All other agencies have **significantly more officers than Ruston Police Department.** The only departments smaller than Ruston are Roy, Eatonville, South Prairie, Wilkeson.

The Officers of your Department protect our community with diligence, compassion and fairness. Please give them a wave when you see them patrolling the City; they love that!

Thank you. Nestor Bautista, Chief of Police

From the Fire Department

Things are getting cooler and so we are all thinking about warming our houses now. Time to get the chimneys cleaned, furnaces serviced and at least change the filters. Don't forget to move things away from the baseboard heaters and uncover vents. And then there are always the gutters to clean. Please be careful we don't want to meet by accident, but seriously that will help keep the water out of our basements and crawlspaces this winter.

Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year and your Fire and Police Departments will be handing out candy in front of the Firehouse again!

Thank you. Fire Chief Bruce Allen

From the Public Works Department

Fall has arrived and with it, the leaves will start falling soon. Please keep an eye on trees and bushes growing around the perimeter of your property. Changes are coming to those who don't comply. Trim or cut branches that are growing into or overhead of sidewalk, alley and street. This is a safety concern for walkers and small children using our sidewalks. We are still in the dry season so tall grass is fuel for a fire, keep grass cut to prevent a fuel source. Please keep an eye out on the branches above your electrical service line of your property.

Painting the City red! The curbs have a fresh coat of paint, especially in front of the fire hydrant and STOP signs stay back curb areas.

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

MAYOR

Bruce Hopkins 253-759-3544 bruceh@rustonwa.org

Council

Jim Hedrick 360-789-4700 jimh@rustonwa.org
Deb Kristovich 253-988-8121 debk@rustonwa.org
Lynn Syler 253-223-7459 lsyler@rustonwa.org
Bradley Huson 253-759-6391 bradleyhuson@rustonwa.org
Jennifer Jensen 206-853-1992 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
http://www.rustonwa.org/services/community-development/code-enforcement		
City Planner	253-759-3544	Rob White
Associate Planner	253-759-3544	Charles McKenna