

DUVALL NEWS

Official Newsletter of the City of Duvall



Mayors Message - Amy Ockerlander

Greetings, Duvall!

December 31st will be my last day as your Mayor, and January 1st Mayor-Elect Amy McHenry will officially take office.

I want to start this message by expressing my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your support over the past 18-years of service to our community, and, particularly, the last 8 as your Mayor.

From the Planning Commission to City Council and then the office of Mayor, serving you has been an incredible honor, and a path that I never foresaw taking.

Together, we have achieved some pretty incredible things for a (still) small city.

This includes:

- Implementing strong financial policies that have built tremendous resiliency into our budgeting, putting us well ahead of most other cities with being able to weather the known future challenges.
- Prioritizing right-sizing staffing. This has significantly increased service levels as well as reduced legal and financial risk, and minimized safety risks for our valued employees. This has also led to better employee retention. Combined, this also has saved and will continue to save taxpayer money that then is used on legal requirements or community desires.
- Taking action on increasing government transparency through video recording and posting all city council meetings online, implementing online public records software that allows the public to see all records requests and the information released.

- upgrading the city's website and launching Duvall Connect to allow easier and more timely access to city information.
- Procuring the most comprehensive and transparent government budgeting software available.
- Bringing on a full-time Emergency Manager who has done an incredible job updating our emergency plans, developing new plans to mitigate emerging risks and keeping staff up to date on required safety training.
- Hiring a long-awaited Community Events Coordinator, which has resulted in more community events than ever before.
- Upgrading failing facilities to ensure a safer work environment for our employees and easier access for the public.
- Moving forward with studies to inform site selection and design for a new City Hall, Police Department and Maintenance shop for our Public Works crews and their equipment.
- Managing the City through a global pandemic and multiple states of emergency, including the infamous "snowmageddon" of 2019.
- Attaining high caliber, experienced staff that have taken our city to the next level.
- Procuring 28.60 new acres of land for the eventual expansion of Big Rock Park
- Completion of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan
- Connected sidewalks through the entirety of the city.
- ... And so much more.

(continued on pg 2.)



Mayors Message - Continued

As I reflect on my time as your Mayor, I am proud that the overwhelming majority of what I promised our community I would attempt to achieve, has been done. A philosophy of many Mayors is to leave their city better than how they found it when they came to office, and there is no doubt that we have achieved that. Much of that work the average person will never see, but it has reduced legal and financial risk, improved the work environment for our staff, and made good on community priorities, like saving Summerstage.

None of this would have been possible without first and foremost, the dedication and support of an incredible staff team. Our employees are here because they want to be, and many even volunteer at community events on their days off.

I can't say enough about the men and women who are the boots on the ground and made everything written above a reality. Thank you!

It also takes a majority vote of council to get approval to do the big things on my agenda. I want to express my sincere appreciation for those that shared the vision, have supported and respected our staff, and helped move good things forward. There were a lot of hard votes, challenging conversations and care that went into this work. I will always be grateful for those that put our community and the future of the city ahead of their personal opinions, treated our staff with the professional respect they deserve, and for the good working relationships and friendships that were formed over time.

A special thank you is due to Mayor Elect Amy McHenry. She has been the glue that held Council together during the toughest times and dug in more than any other to understand the needs of both running a city effectively and keeping the pulse on the community.

I have no doubt that the City is in good hands with her leadership and I am very much looking forward to her tenure as Duvall's Mayor.

I also want to give a special thank you to my family. Most will never know the sacrifices that a Mayor's family makes to be in public service, but I can assure you that they are great. Thank you to my husband and children for supporting me through this incredible journey.

Finally, I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season. It is a great time to celebrate the many different holidays of the season and show both love and grace to our neighbors.

Happy Holidays, and All the Best to You - I'll see you around town.





Water Saving Tips this Season

As a Duvall Water customer, you play an important role in protecting our local water resources. Every gallon you save helps keep water in our rivers and lakes to support salmon, wildlife, and healthy forests.

Here are a few simple ways to make a difference:

- Turn off your sprinkler system when it's not needed this winter
- Shorter showers save money
- Keep an eye out for leaks around your home
- Sweep, don't spray, when cleaning sidewalks and driveways

Together, we can help ensure a reliable water supply for our community and the environment.

Learn more water-saving tips at SavingWater.org.



Upcoming Events:

Light Up Duvall - Main Street Depot Park
Friday, December 5th

Christmas - City Hall Closed
Thursday, December 25th

Community Movie Night @ Riverview School District
Friday, December 5th

Annual Tree Pick Up - Scouting for the Valley
Saturday, January 3rd

The Nutcracker - DPA
December, 12 - 14
December, 19 - 21

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
9 AM - 1 PM
QR until the trucks are full

WM Recycle Right® Event

Cherry Valley Elementary
26701 NE Cherry Valley Rd
Duvall, WA 98019

MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- POLYSTYRENE FOAM**
Styro Recycle is collecting polystyrene foam. Foam must be clean, dry and free of tape and labels. Please bag foam peanuts separately.
- TEXTILES**
USAgain is collecting textiles for recycling on-site. USAgain is collecting new and used clothing, shoes, accessories and household textiles in reusable condition... towels, bedding, fabric, and rags...
- ELECTRONICS**
3R Technology is collecting small household appliances and electronics. Please do not include bigger items like refrigerators.

LOCATION & CONTACT

Cherry Valley Elementary
26701 NE Cherry Valley Rd
Duvall, WA 98019

Questions?
Contact event organizers: Email: recyclenw@wm.com

