



# City of La Center

A Community of History and Vision

Newsletter

February 2007

From Public Works Director Jeff Sarvis

## Sewer Planning is Key to City's Future

La Center is truly a wonderful place to live. Maintaining that quality of life requires vision and planning to keep pace with projected growth and meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Last year, the City took two major steps to deal with the future growth. The first was to expand our Urban Growth Area boundaries — providing new land for residential, commercial and industrial development. The City completed a detailed environmental review of this proposal, and Clark County is expected to decide on changes to the City's growth boundaries this spring.

The second was to resume ownership of the wastewater utility from Clark Public Utilities. By taking over direct control of the system, La Center is in a much better position to serve the growing area effectively and efficiently.

The City has an existing treatment plant that treats wastewater generated within the city limits and discharges treated effluent to the East Fork of the Lewis River. The plant was recently upgraded to improve performance and environmental protection.

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- Did You Know?
- Recreational Needs Report

**See Insert for Winter Safety Tips**

### Elected Officials

Mayor James T. Irish  
 Mayor Pro-Tem  
 Linda Tracy  
 Councilmember Justin Dale Smith  
 Councilmember Bill Birdwell  
 Councilmember Troy Van Dinter  
 Councilmember Bob Smith

### Appointed Officials

Suzanne Levis, Finance Director/City Clerk  
 Jeff Sarvis, Director of Public Works  
 Tim Hopkin, Chief of Police  
 Dale Miller, City Planner

## State of the City Message

Mayor James T. Irish will deliver La Center's State of the City address Wednesday, February 21 at the Community Center, 1000 E. 4th Street. The public is encouraged to attend the address to learn more about the future of our community .

An open house with beverages and light refreshments will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mayor Irish and City Council members will be present to meet with citizens and answer questions. Mayor Irish will speak at 7:00 p.m. and will address the highlights of recent programs and activities, as well as present the priorities and future goals of La Center for 2007 and beyond.

### City Hall Offices

**214 East 4th Street  
 La Center WA 98629  
 (360) 263-2745  
 FAX 263-2757**

## Sewer Planning

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The City has begun the planning, permitting, and design process through the use of a Public Works Trust Fund pre-construction loan and local matching funds. Kennedy/Jenks Consultants has been hired to develop a Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan. The purpose of this project is to expand treatment capacity at the existing site to serve the community's needs for the next 20 years. The engineering firm will work with City staff to evaluate the existing wastewater system, and develop recommendations for a long-term

plan for this utility to meet projected growth in the area. They will also design a Public Education and Outreach Plan, to assure that citizens have an opportunity to participate in the development of this facility.

This process will assure that the City of La Center can meet the needs of citizens and businesses, keep sewer rates as low as possible, and meet the important environmental and public health requirements that protect us all.

For more information on the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan, contact the Public Works Department at (360) 263-7665.

## Recreation Study Completed

A great majority of La Center citizens believe that parks and recreation services are important to maintaining the city's quality of life. This strong community support for enhanced or improved recreational opportunities was the key conclusion of the recent Recreational Needs Assessment. The study included extensive input from local citizens to determine priorities for future recreation planning.

The study examined the parks, trails and other recreational amenities in the city, and how these are used by citizens. It also projected the need for new facilities over the next twenty years. La Center has two large parks (Sternwheeler and Community) that support a wide range of sporting events and other activities. However, parks throughout the city are limited, and their location leaves several gaps in the park system where future residential areas are underserved.

There is strong support in the community for the acquisition of lands to set aside for future park and recreation development. La Center residents also identified trail corridors as the most important

facility for the city to provide as it continues to grow.

The recent survey showed that there is real demand for an aquatic facility, a sports complex, community events and more ball fields in La Center. The consultant recommended further research on an aquatic facility, and the feasibility of locating specific park amenities, such as additional ball fields, a sports complex, dog park and skate park, throughout the city.

La Center will continue to look for new opportunities for expansion or improvement of recreational facilities, and to develop partnerships that will enhance the potential for new parks, trails and other recreational facilities.

### **Did You Know?**

*La Center has over 14 miles of roadways that are maintained by the City.*