

## 2013 Annual Review

"Creating community through responsive leadership and services for the citizens and visitors of the Apple Capital of the World"

### Mayor's Message



Mayor Frank J. Kuntz

I cannot believe it's 2014. It is off to great start with the Seahawks victory in the Super Bowl. Let's hope there is more of that to come. As for the City of Wenatchee, we are at a crossroads.

When I look around the city I see good development along our waterfront. Pybus Market, Ninth street apartments, and hopefully a boutique hotel is in the near future. It has taken a long time to get things going on the waterfront and hopefully good things happen to those that wait.

However, from a long term perspective the City of Wenatchee is basically landlocked. With a river to the east and mountains to the west, there are not a lot of places for the city to expand. Without expansion, there will be little growth in both sales tax and property tax. These taxes make up the bread and butter of city government. I am spending as much time as possible looking into the future to make sure we can provide the city services that we all expect within a constrained budget outlook.

With that said, Wenatchee continues to be a great place to work, live and play and we have a lot to be thankful for. We look forward to your input as we plan for our future. Best wishes to all for a prosperous 2014, and please support our local businesses.

### Inside this issue:

Mayor's Message	1
Let's Talk Wenatchee	1
Budget Overview	2
New Citizen Reporting Program	2
Waste Management Services	2
New City Street Signs	2
Police Reaccreditation	2
Flood Control Zone District	3
Nuisance Code Updates	3
Wenatchee Fire & Rescue ... What's coming in 2014	3
Stay Informed	3
Private Investment on the Wenatchee Waterfront	4
2013/2014 Projects	5
The Parks & Recreation Department Has Been Busy!	6



### Let's Talk Wenatchee!

In 2013, the Wenatchee City Council led an effort to reach out to citizens by holding a series of meetings in neighborhood schools and parks. The effort was intended to have an informal conversation about needs in the City. Questions were posed: "What does the City need to know about my neighborhood?" "What would I do with \$1 Million?" "What would improve my quality of life?" Seven meetings were held. Comments were also accepted via the [www.letstalkwenatchee.com](http://www.letstalkwenatchee.com) website. The feedback was heard as reflected in the sample below:

- (1) New street signs are being installed throughout the City (the City already had a grant for these signs; however, it was good to hear they were needed!);
- (2) A new shelter at Washington Park has received donations and momentum to move forward (the need was noted at the Washington Elementary meeting);
- (3) Comments were passed along about the need to separate uses (horses and hikers) at Saddlerock and the new trailhead is being designed with those needs in mind (funds still have to be raised to make the improvements);
- (4) The City Council put more funds into the 2014 budget for sidewalk installation. The need was expressed across the City;
- (5) There was great support for bike lanes throughout the City and the Council adopted the Bike Plan;
- (6) Concern was expressed about Western/Cherry and No. Canyon and a grant has been received and improvements are in the planning stages;
- (7) A need was expressed to connect south Wenatchee with Riverfront Park and a south end overpass is being designed for Bridge Street to connect with the Pedestrian Bridge over the river (funding will need to be sought);
- (8) Neighbors were very concerned about flooding in the canyons, and City Council provided support to Chelan County for beginning the process to form a Flood Control Zone District;
- (9) Concerns were expressed about the effort to form a downtown local improvement district and the Council put a hold on the project pending downtown property owner leadership.

The City appreciates all who came out to let our Council members know what is important. We loved the positive comments about the pride in our City and the love of our parks, open space and walkable neighborhoods. For the full recap of "Let's Talk Wenatchee!" in 2013, go to [www.letstalkwenatchee.com](http://www.letstalkwenatchee.com).



## Budget Overview

2013 was a year of reckoning for the City of Wenatchee. Many thought that when the Town Toyota Center issue was fixed that the City's budget would be fine; however, in 2012 and 2013 it became common knowledge that the City's retail sales tax revenue would not be returning to prior levels because of a basic change in the makeup of the City's tax base from a tax producing base to a service provider base. Recent budget analysis shows that despite having a much reduced labor force, the departmental budgets continue to increase due to the cost of employee benefits. Enclosed in this newsletter are newly developed graphics which represent how a dollar would break down using the City's revenues and expenses. Additional graphics show where the tax dollars go. As the Mayor indicated in his article, this will be a year designed to analyze what it will take to make the City of Wenatchee sustainable. As the largest City in the region, the region depends on many of the services the City provides (i.e. police detective/drug task force work, fire mutual aid agreements, administration of the two county homelessness funds, road maintenance to access major facilities, i.e. hospital). This will be a crucial year of planning how to fund basic city services into the future.

## New Citizen Reporting Program

Since 2009 the City has provided the citizens the ability to enter requests for government services online through the City web site. This has been a product hosted by MRSC. Last fall, MRSC informed us that their product offering would be going away by the end of the first quarter in 2014. A committee was formed and five potential products were reviewed and demos were presented. The list was cut to two products with reference checks completed with some of their current customers. In the end, the committee selected Government Outreach's GoRequest software. Among the new features in this product over what we currently provide are the ability to include frequently asked questions, apps for Android and iOS phones, GPS location services, integration of GIS maps for service areas, attaching photos to the service requests, and stronger reporting on the end user side. This product will allow the City to provide stronger customer services to the citizens of Wenatchee. Look for the City's launch of GoRequest in March!



## Waste Management Services

The City of Wenatchee is proud to announce that we are expanding our partnership with Waste Management.

Beginning March 1, 2014, Waste Management will be your new billing and customer service contact for recycling, yard waste and garbage collection. The rates and pick up schedules will remain the same (including the four free dumps per year). The only difference is that residential garbage bills will come from Waste Management not the City of Wenatchee, and Waste Management bills on a quarterly basis, not bi-monthly.

## New City Street Signs

You might have noticed the new easier to read street signs going up around the City. The streets crew is in the process of installing much needed new street signs. They are currently installing 250 new signs on the main arterial streets.



## Wenatchee Police Department Reaccredited in 2013

The Wenatchee Police Department has been an accredited law enforcement agency since 2001, by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. It is necessary to be reaccredited every four years. Under the direction of Captain Doug Jones the Department was reaccredited in 2013. It is one of approximately 60 law enforcement agencies in the state currently accredited by the association.

The purpose of law enforcement agency accreditation is to professionalize the law enforcement industry by providing a review process for agencies to be certified as operating under industry best practices and standards.

## Chelan County Proposing Flood Control Zone District

Chelan County Public Works is researching the feasibility of establishing a countywide Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) to address flood management needs within Chelan County (including cities). Storms hitting the region over the last several years have been severe. In Chelan County the 2013 floods caused over \$500,000 in public property damage. That does not include the cost of private property damage. Creating a FCZD will fund flood-reduction projects and programs in Chelan County. The funds collected by the FCZD are protected by state law and can only be used to fund flood control related activities. RCW 86.15 authorizes collection of a property tax for a FCZD. The Board of County Commissioners instructed staff to investigate the feasibility of establishing a countywide levy rate (including cities) of \$0.07 per \$1,000 assessed value. At this rate, a homeowner with a \$250,000 home would be assessed approximately \$17 per year and the FCZD annual revenue would be approximately \$600,000. Chelan County will be reaching out to local jurisdictions through June of 2014 to discuss possible FCZD formation and respond to questions and concerns. The City welcomes the County's look into a FCZD but will want to see detailed plans for the identification and funding of projects. We should expect the primary purpose of the district to be minimization of private and public property flooding losses by funding of projects that provide the highest level of risk reduction to private properties.



For more information on the FCZD and for a schedule of public meetings visit the County's webpage at: [www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw](http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw)

### Wenatchee Fire & Rescue . . . What's Coming 2014

A major focus of the 2014 budget process was to ensure funds were made available for a needed fire engine.



Engine example

For more information on Wenatchee Fire & Rescue check out their annual report on the city's website or by clicking [here](#).

### Stay informed . . .

Stay informed about upcoming public meetings, notices, volunteer opportunities, and quarterly newsletters. Sign up for E-News on the City's website: [www.wenatcheeva.gov](http://www.wenatcheeva.gov), or click on the icon below:



### Nuisance Code Updates

#### Doing Your Part to Make Wenatchee a Great Place! City Code Enforcement

When people come together to live, work, and play in a city, it comes with an inherent responsibility to be a good neighbor to the community. Examples of these responsibilities include maintaining your property, shoveling the snow from sidewalks, or just recognizing how your actions impact your neighbors or other people. Doing your part to be a good neighbor is critical to the very core of a great city. The City Code Enforcement Department's primary focus is to encourage people to work together and ensure everyone understands their responsibility to their neighbors and public. When people impact others negatively through their actions, nuisances are created. For example, neglect of a single property, can bring down property values for the entire surrounding area.



Example of Maintained Property



Example of Neglected Property

This last year, the City has been revamping the outdated city code enforcement process to address nuisance codes and property maintenance codes. The city will be implementing these new codes beginning in April of this year. The new code enforcement process is designed to ensure citizens understand their responsibilities with follow thru to make sure folks comply with the city codes. We recognize that most people want to do the right thing and it is our goal to reward those who do.

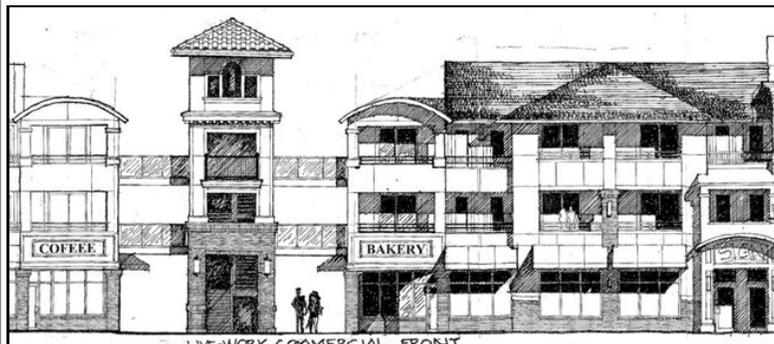
## Private Investment on the Wenatchee Waterfront

Private investment on the Wenatchee Waterfront really kicked off in 2013 with the opening of the Pybus Public Market in May. The Pybus Market is proving to be popular local gathering place for our community in addition to a tourism draw. With this first year of success, the City of Wenatchee would like to recognize the private community for investing in our city's treasured riverfront. Also, many thanks to our community partners, the Chelan County Port District and Chelan County PUD, for working with the Walker Charitable Foundation to help build this wonderful attraction in the heart of our city. Most importantly, special thanks go out to Mike and JoAnn Walker for believing in our community and bringing the private operations and investment necessary for the Pybus Public Market to become a reality! The combined public and private investment of \$11.5 million has provided the added benefit of initiating our Local Revitalization Financing tax rebate in which the City is now receiving \$500,000 per year for the next 25 years to pay for existing and future improvements on the riverfront! The Pybus Market is also a catalyst for other private investments including a 312 unit multifamily project just a short walk away on the loop trail and a boutique hotel and spa next door. Last but certainly not least, the City would like to recognize the private investment and effort committed by the tenants of the Pybus Market. These entrepreneurs have put forth substantial resources and risk which is helping improve our local economy. The economic impact of successful local businesses is much larger than most realize. Commerce at the market is anticipated to grow to well over \$6 million dollars per year!

Another huge private investment in our waterfront began in 2013. The 312 unit multifamily development initiated by Molitor Construction and backed by Weidner Apartment Homes is under construction and is expected to be completed in phases in 2014 and 2015. This \$25 million mixed use development will provide the residential living opportunities envisioned in the community's Waterfront Subarea Plan. A mix of studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and live-work units will provide new opportunities for housing in Wenatchee just a short walk on the Loop Trail to the Pybus Public Market.



Pybus Public Market Opening Weekend



## 2013/2014 Projects

Our Engineering and Public Works Departments have been busy! Here is a listing of projects they have been working on:

### 2013:

- Near completion of Senator George Sellar Bridge West is showing significant improvements to South End congestion.
- Chip seal of 2+ miles of Miller Street appears a success and potential pavement preservation strategy for many Wenatchee Streets in the future.
- Completion of south Wenatchee Avenue essentially extends illumination and sidewalk south on Wenatchee Avenue all the way to Mission View Elementary in the county.
- Completion of Pine Street between Walnut and McKittrick providing full urban upgrades.
- Upgrade of school zone traffic control devices including signing, flashers, and pavement markings with grant funding.
- Downtown project expected to re-route large trucks out of the downtown core. Some accommodation has been made along SR285 (Victorian Village) and intersection projects currently in design will provide accommodation at Miller/Chelan and Miller/Mission.

### 2014:

- Design and 2015 construction of additional pedestrian improvements on SR285 including pedestrian bulb-outs downtown and a pedestrian signal for crossing Mission in vicinity of Bridge St.
- Design and 2015 construction of Western Safety Improvements adding a signal at Maple/Western and sidewalk on east side of Western south of Cherry to No. 2 and along south side of No. 2 to Skyline linking the WRAC to the city sidewalk system, as well as the intersection at Western/Cherry.
- Design and 2015 construction of Safe Routes project on Okanogan and Red Apple roads filling sidewalk gaps and upgrading a heavily used existing school zone.
- Design and 2015 construction of new signal on North Wenatchee Avenue at McKittrick Street which is the first in a series of identified projects intended to consolidate and improve access to commercial properties, create some median barrier where two-way left turn lanes exist, provide safe pedestrian crossing, and provide for U-turns.

Additional projects include:

- Regional Decant facility; Millerdale water main replacement; Completion of water booster pump station #1 (Okanogan/Crawford station); Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan; and Malaga Street sewer main replacement.

### **Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Near Completion**

During the development of the 2007 Facility Plan update for the Wenatchee Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), improvements related to how the plant functions as a part of a redeveloping riverfront district were evaluated. From that evaluation it was determined that two options were available, relocate the plant or provide both visual and odor control mitigation to enable the plant to blend into a mixed use of the waterfront. With a cost of \$160M to relocate the plant, the odor and visual upgrade route was determined to be the only feasible direction. In 2008 an analysis of the extent of necessary odor control was evaluated, along with the formation of a local stakeholders group comprised of neighbors and potential developers to determine the level of visual treatment desired. The plan that came forward was to "hide it in plain sight" which mean not to attempt to encapsulate the plant in a couple of huge industrial buildings, but to provide enhancement to the treatment facilities at the plant and to make them more visually appealing.

The city contracted with HDR Inc. to provide engineering and architectural services and the results were taken through a public process. During this project development process, it was determined that another phase of the project would be added to bring the headworks of the project into compliance with upcoming regulatory changes. The result is what you see at the WWTP today. A nearly two-year construction effort is approaching completion with only a few odor control components yet to be installed. The architect was able to accomplish the goal of hiding the objectionable visual elements of plant while drawing one's attention to it. This project has also incorporated the work of a renowned public artist to bring an interpretive view to the important processes taking place at the plant every day. From lighting to sculpture the artist added another dimension to what is primarily a mechanical and biological processing plant. The nearly \$10M project was paid for by the issuance of revenue bonds and a Public Works Trust Fund loan, both of which will be repaid by sewer rate revenue.

As you can see, there's plenty going on at Public Works! For information on these and other projects please visit the City's website at [www.wenatcheeva.gov](http://www.wenatcheeva.gov). You can also find the Public Works Annual Report on the city's website or by clicking [here](#).

Mayor and City Councilmembers



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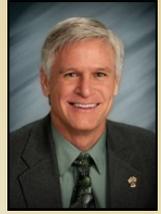
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Council Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month @ 5:15 p.m.  
Work Sessions: 3rd Thursday of each month @ 5:15 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Department Has Been Busy!

The Parks & Recreation Department has been busy! Much time has been spent on long range planning and development. The acquisition and design process, and grant writing process for the new Hale Park are key examples of the busy work in this department. An exciting part of their work this year will be the effort to raise funds and construct a new Washington Park shelter.

Washington Park is located at the corner of Washington and Miller Streets in central Wenatchee. The 4.1 acre park was acquired in 1946 and is one of the most popular neighborhood parks in the City. The park features mature shade trees, picnic shelter, children's play area and seasonal wading pool that attracts over 4,000 people annually. The existing picnic shelter was built in built in the late 1940's. It is used on a reserved basis by over 3,000 people each year and countless others on an informal basis. Due to its age, condition and size, there is a need to replace the shelter to continue to be able to continue to serve the community.

The River View Kiwanis Club of Wenatchee has partnered with the City in an effort to upgrade the shelter for the community. Through this project, the picnic shelter will be replaced, the plumbing and electrical improved and the shelter will be made fully accessible with a new concrete floor and sidewalk to the shelter. The shelter will also feature new, vandal resistant picnic tables. Through a variety of fundraisers, River View Kiwanis has raised over \$19,000 for the project so far. They hope to reach their goal of \$100,000 by June of 2015 so the new shelter can be built constructed in the Fall of 2015. For information on how to contribute to the project, please contact Margie Wilson at: (509) 679-5557, or visit:



Friends of Washington Park  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Washington-Park-Wenatchee/457309254350573>



<http://riverviewkiwanis.org/Page/14901>

The Parks & Recreation Department's Annual Report can be found on the city's website or by clicking [here](#).



### Where Does the Property Tax You Pay Go?

For Every \$100 of Property Tax Paid, it is Distributed as Follows



### Where Does the Sales Tax You Pay Go?

For Every \$100 of Sales Tax Paid, it is Distributed as Follows

(sales tax is a pass-through tax that is paid by consumers which then is remitted to the State by businesses)



## How is the City of Wenatchee Funded



## City of Wenatchee General Fund Expenditures

