



## From the Desk of Mayor Will Finn

Monday, June 19, 2023

Hello Neighbor!

Hope this message finds you well! I especially hope you had a Happy Father's Day. Being a parent, guardian, or influencer of a young person is extremely rewarding. Heather and I hope your weekend was spent with those you love and cherish!

My door is always open! Send me an email or call. I am always ready to assist or answer questions.

*Mayor Will Finn*

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## Planters Days Celebration

Community Outreach

WOW! What a fantastic weekend!!! Huge THANK YOU to Keith Belisle (Mr. B) and the crew with the Woodland Planters Days Committee. Once again, you have outdone yourselves and provided a wonderful experience for our community. Many look forward to this annual event, and you did not disappoint. Congratulations to Princess Eli as the 2023 Miss Woodland! We look forward to working with you in the coming year! All three ladies did an outstanding job representing Woodland leading up to crowning.



## Breaking Ground

Community Outreach

It was great seeing the amazing turnout for the *Fort Vancouver Regional Library - Woodland Branch* groundbreaking! This project has been a longtime coming. Many volunteer hours, book drives, fundraisers, and special events have occurred for many years to get this project to where it is today. I am very excited to finally see a shovel in the ground on this much needed facility. Thank you to the FVRL and *Friends of Woodland Community Library* for upgrading our current facility and your dedication to Woodland! [Supporting and promoting our library \(woodlandlibraryfriends.org\)](http://woodlandlibraryfriends.org)

## Thank You Woodland Police Department

Public Safety

Big shout out the entire Woodland Police Department for their excellent representation! Every year during the weeks leading up to Planters Days, our officers are called to assist in preparing the city for the inundation of visitors. This year was no exception. I am very proud of the preparation and work done by this outstanding group of individuals! They also did an amazing job being present during all the festivities. Thank you for all you do!

Officer Bolo has also had an extremely busy week! From school field days to the annual pet parade. He even rode shotgun with Lt. Ortiz, providing much needed navigation during Saturday's parade. Officer Bolo also has some exciting news...**he received another \$5,000 reimbursable grant from the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC)!** This grant from CJTC will help Officer Bolo continue the WPD Therapy Animal Program. Officer Bolo's program is sustained through grants and individual donations from the community.





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# The Woodland Bottoms & Code Enforcement

## Community Development

**REMINDER!** We have been working with Cowlitz County on developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding growth. We have finally agreed to a document that spells out how a master plan of the Woodland Bottoms will occur. Before everyone takes that to mean the City of Woodland is annexing the Woodland Bottoms, that is not what the MOA represents. The MOA is a document that states the city and Cowlitz County will work together developing a plan for future development, if it occurs. As mentioned in other newsletters, the city is responsible for managing growth and the impacts that come with growth (example is Exit 21). The MOA is also an opportunity for other organizations to be part of the conversation and how to manage growth effectively. (*The Port, School District, Diking District, Planning Commissions, Emergency Services, and the list goes on!*) There will also be public outreach and participation. ***The MOA will be on the next agenda, June 19<sup>th</sup>, with a Public Hearing attached so you can testify on the document.*** A copy can be found here: [moa for woodland bottoms joint planning1192356.9-1.pdf](#)

Code enforcement seemed to be a hot topic after the last newsletter (*June 12, 2023*) regarding the retail marijuana store that is open along State Route 503, inside the city limits. City Council has chosen **NOT** to allow the sale of retail marijuana on a number of occasions, all the way back to 2014. It appears there is some confusion on state licensing versus city licensing. In this case, the State of Washington has licensed the facility to operate in the State. However, the business is still required to follow all rules, codes, and regulations within the jurisdiction the business operates within. A state license is not a blanket “GO FOR IT” license. Any business still needs to follow the local jurisdiction regulations. **This business is currently NOT licensed to operate inside the city limits.**

As mentioned in my last newsletter, the City of Woodland’s code enforcement office is complaint driven. The above code enforcement on the retail marijuana store began after receiving two code enforcement complaints. My office and city council **DID NOT** direct action against this retailer, your neighbors asked code enforcement be taken (*CE-0015 & CE-0016*). See page 15 of this document [Appeal Hearing - 04 Jan 2022 - Agenda - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#).

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## All Hands On Deck!

### Public Works

Similar to the team at the Woodland Police Department, it was all-hands-on-deck for the annual Planters Days celebration. Once again, this team of dedicated employees went above and beyond! The city was well prepared and looked its best once again. I received many compliments from residents and visitors on how awesome the city looked. Streets swept, flower beds weeded and spruced-up, and flower baskets and banners placed just right! THANK YOU!

Public Works is wrapping up the Asbestos water line replacement on W. Scott Avenue, which will lead to the long awaited and planned full depth reclamation of W. Scott Avenue and Guild Road. This will include pedestrian sidewalks and ADA ramps. Please anticipate delays on W. Scott Avenue during construction of this road and pedestrian access. Check the city website for progress. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.2M and we are required to match only 8%, which is around \$250K! This is a great way to stretch your tax dollars. The projects are funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and state grant dollars.

Public Works is hosting [Hot Summer Nights and Movies in the Park](#) again this year. The first night is June 23<sup>rd</sup>, this Friday. The live band is 24-7 and the movie is *Minions Rise of Gru*. In addition, *Downtown Woodland Revitalization (DWR)* will join in on the fun and host a beer garden, with ticket pre-sales going on now at a reduced cost. Pick up your tickets at Public Works. *Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)* will be hosting a hot dog feast during these events.

Public Works is asking for your help! They’re asking you take a moment (*less than 3 minutes*) and complete the [ADA Public Out Reach Survey | Woodland Washington](#). This survey will help with addressing ADA needs in the city. As a city, we want to make sure everyone who lives, works, and visits Woodland has a positive, accessible experience. Survey will close July 19, 2023.

Public Works needs volunteers for *Make a Difference Day*. This event will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Please contact Public Works at 360-225-7999 and register your team to volunteer. This is a great event for Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Churches, families, and clubs that want to make a difference in our community. We work from about 8-Noon on that day throughout the city.



### Volunteers Needed

#### Recreational Facilities

Public Works is seeking volunteers to help clean-up a 10-acre parcel along the Lewis River. The parcel of land is located between Insel and Gun Club Roads and was a donation to the city years ago. The 10-acres is intended to allow continued public access to the river, regardless of development around the parcel. The parcel is overrun with the invasive species “scotch broom”. Because the parcel is within the shoreline, it must be removed by hand and large equipment cannot be used. We want to make sure the area is easily accessible to the public and we are seeking your help to make this happen! If you would like to sign-up to help, or have an organization that needs service hours, please contact Public Works and put your name on the list (360-225-7999). You will be contacted when a date is set for clean-up.

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## **Civic Center, Town Hall Meeting, & Planters Days**

City Hall

The new Woodland Civic Center has gone out to bid. What does that mean? Well, city council approved to spend grant dollars received for the design of a new community facility at the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Goerig Street. We have requested a bid for the actual construction of the facility. Once the bids are received, we will have a better understanding of what it will cost to build and a financial plan can be put together and presented to city council. Currently, we have been awarded/received just over \$200K in funding towards this project. I have also sent a funding request to Clark and Cowlitz Counties recreational districts seeking help. [828 Goerig Street – City of Woodland Civic Center | Woodland Washington](#)

For those of you that were unable to attend the Town Hall Meeting on June 13, 2023, here is a link to the video. [Mayor's Town Hall Meeting - 13 Jun 2023 - YouTube](#) The video is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes with the first 30 minutes being a city update. There was a consistent message from those who attended to do better advertising of the meeting with more advanced noticed. Other feedback was **“we want more”**. I will be hosting another town hall meeting in the city council chambers next month (*date to come*). Great questions were asked and answered! Hope you take the time to watch!

During Planters Days I was outside the old fire station in downtown. It was a great opportunity to visit and answer questions! Many took advantage of the new handouts being produced from city departments. The handouts provided had a range of topics and information. How to read your property tax statement, where the city budget is distributed, cost of street repairs, and even how to make sure your home/business is visible for emergency responders. The handouts will soon make their way to the website for electronic access. Many information boards were also available to update those that stopped in on happenings around the city.



## **Yard of the Month**

City Hall

We are still looking for submissions for the Yard of the Month recognition program! Submissions are due by the close of business June 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you want to be recognized, or want to recognize a neighbor, our website home page has the link. Fill out the form and attach a photo of the property. Once a month a winner will be selected and highlighted for their outstanding efforts. [Yard of the Month | Woodland Washington](#)

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## **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

City Council Meeting – June 19, 2023 at 7:00PM – 200 E Scott Ave

Hot Summer Nights & Movies in the Park – June 23, 2023 at 5:30PM – Horseshoe Lake Park

City Council Meeting – July 8, 2023 at 7:00PM – 200 E Scott Ave

Independence Day - City Offices Closed – July 4, 2023

Comp Plan Open House – July 6, 2023 at 6:00PM – 200 E Scott Ave

Hot Summer Nights & Movies in the Park – July 7, 2023 at 5:30PM – Horseshoe Lake Park

*[For a list of all of the events and meetings, visit our website to view the City Calendar.](#)*