



From the Desk of Mayor Will Finn

Monday, July 31, 2023

Hello Neighbor!

Hope this message finds you well! I hope you had a wonderful July 4th holiday. Whether you spent it camping, with family, or enjoying time with friends, celebrating America always brings me great joy.

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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Congratulations to TWO homes this month for 'Yard of the Month'! One on the west side and the other on the east side. We had great participation when it came to voting and submissions this month. August submissions are due by the close of business August 25th. Upload your photo of your yard on our website. Once a month a winner will be selected and highlighted for their outstanding efforts. [Yard of the Month | Woodland Washington](#)



Auditing Utility Bills & Meter Readers

Utilities

We are in the final process of the utility bill audit from May. As we meticulously poured over ALL (nearly 2,000) the utility bills and 94% were correct! Of the remaining 6%, approximately 95% of errors found were deemed to have incorrect data. As we researched further, it appears the 2022 data transferred to our billing contractor Minol was incorrect. I have said it many times, outsourcing to Minol has made us better! The internal system that was used for decades, although efficient for a smaller city, does not work for a city our size. We have righted the wrongs of the past.

Speaking of audits! We also completed an audit of our meter reader, another outsourced service.

To be honest, I have had many concerns over the years with this contractor. It has been mentioned many in passing from citizens they feel the same way. The audit revealed accurate readings being provided by the meter reader. We also verified the transferred readings to Minol, the billing contractor, to ensure the meter numbers documented were the numbers transferred. It was verified! This too is a dying system of the utility system. Many cities have moved to a digital system, eliminating the need for a meter reader. We continue to look at switching to this updated technology, but it is expensive to make the switch. We will continue looking at this option into the future.

We are Hiring!

Looking for a job!? – We are in desperate need in the Public Works Department. The positions are currently temporary, but could lead to full-time employment. If you are just looking for a few months of work (*home from college, retired, or just needing to get out to the house for a few months*). Also looking for individuals interested in law enforcement.

[Job Openings | Woodland Washington](#)



Potential Grant Funding for 2023 Comp Plan

Community Development

The Department of Commerce has contacted Director Travis Goddard and informed him of a \$120K grant available. The grant would help offset the cost generated with the 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The grant would be paid over the course of the project which is at the halfway mark. I have instructed Mr. Goddard to apply for the grant, which does not require a matching contribution.

If selected as a recipient, it will be taken to city council for acceptance. Regardless of the selection, we will be completing an update to our comprehensive plan.

The hope is to bring additional money into the city for work already being completed. *(Community Development is a ‘general fund’ expensive. This grant would reimburse our general fund dollars and be used for reserves or another general fund item.)* [2023 Comprehensive Plan Update](#) | [Woodland Washington](#)



The Community Development Department is the welcome mat for all developments in the city. They are also the customer service agent for those relocating a business to the city. Here is a list of city projects you may be interested in! [City Projects](#) | [Woodland Washington](#)



Want a Career in Law Enforcement?

Public Safety

With the departure of a full-time police officer a few weeks ago (went to another agency), we continue looking for entry level and lateral police officers. Having a full staff at the Woodland Police Department continues to be a challenge. This challenge seen across the state with over 500 police officers leaving the profession due to legislation changes over the past few years. A city our size cannot compete with the benefits of larger cities who are seeking qualified individuals. We continue to look for candidates monthly! If you, or someone you know, wants to become a police officer in the City of Woodland, reach out to Chief Kelly and have a chat!

‘National Night Out’ is tomorrow night, August 1st, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Horseshoe Lake Park. “National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.” This is the Woodland Police Department’s 2nd year hosting this event. Huge THANK YOU to WOODLAND WALMART for donating 10 bicycles for the even! The bicycles will be raffled after towards the end of the event. Bring the family down and meet Chief Kelly and some of your Woodland Police Officers!

What is going on around Town?

City Hall

WSDOT will be doing repairs to the I-5 Northbound North Fork Lewis River Bridge. Construction will begin late July through early Fall *(dates are subject to change)*. There will be significant delays during peak travel times. [I-5 NB/SB North Fork Lewis River Bridge – Bridge Deck Repair & Overlay](#) | [WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

This past Friday’s ‘Movie in the Park’ was a great success! Thanks to everyone who attended. I hosted a table with information and was able to speak with the community. This is definitely the best part of being your mayor. Getting to know you, learning about your families, and hearing your opinions. I appreciate everyone who stopped by to chat. Hope to see you at the next one! [Hot Summer Nights & Movies in the Park](#) | [Woodland Washington](#)

We are getting closer at finalizing the transfer of assets to Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue. The property near the new fire station, including the old public works office, has been survey. The completion of this land survey was a final piece in the transfer. We will now be able to transfer the facility, equipment, and debt over to the fire district. As this gets closer to finalization, it will be taken to city council for approval.

Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Aug. 25
Superhero Night August 4th	Heavy Equipment August 11th	Tailgate Night August 25th
Come dressed as your favorite superhero!	Construction equipment is on display to explore	Truck and Side-by Side Tailgate in the Park
VFW \$5 Dinner Jenny & Jerry Tingley	VFW \$5 Dinner Bluerock Trio	VFW \$5 Dinner 24-7 BEER GARDEN 6:00 - 8:30PM