



From the Desk of Mayor Will Finn

Monday, September 25, 2023

Hello Neighbor!

Hope this message finds you well!
Mornings have become a bit cooler and I hope you're able to find last fall's jacket.

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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We are still looking for submissions for 'Yard of the Month'. Once again, we had great participation last month with submissions and voting. October submissions are due by the close of business October 26th. If you want to be recognized, or want to recognize a neighbor, fill out the online form and attach a photo of the property. Once a month a winner will be selected and highlighted for their outstanding efforts. Congratulations to the August winner who resides in the Meriweather neighborhood! [Yard of the Month | Woodland Washington](#)



What is New in Public Safety?

Public Safety

The Woodland Police Department (WPD) has been working on a number of items to enhance public safety and upgrades to the police facility.

- **Drone Program** – Police drone programs are designed to create a deployable UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) that assists officer in a number of areas. City council approved the funding of this program in the 2023 budget process. The UAV is able to help officers in mapping of the city, traffic crash reconstruction, forensic investigations, tactical deployments, and search and rescue. There are currently two FAA pilots in the WPD. The program is overseen by Lt. Ortiz.
- **Phlebotomy Program** – This new program to the WPD involves officers with specialized training and certification to draw blood for investigative purposes. While a warrant is still required to draw blood in most cases, such a program eliminates the need for a subject to be transported to a hospital or another facility to obtain a blood sample. WPD officers will be able to assist other law enforcement agencies in our region with this program. This program is overseen by Lt. Ortiz.
- **Department Accreditation** – 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**. The program is overseen by the WASPC Professional Services Committee, Accreditation Commission, and Board of Directors. Once accredited, the WPD will be added to the list of other WA law enforcement agencies that promote community confidence and credibility. The accreditation process is managed by Lt. Ortiz and overseen by Chief Kelly. [Accreditation Certification Program - YouTube](#)
- **Sally Port** – This has been an ongoing project and it's finally moving forward! The addition of the sally port to the police building will provide additional security and protection for our officers as they bring suspects in and out of the police holding area. This has been a continued request from our officers and we are finally able to move forward with this request.

We are Hiring!

Looking for a job!? – We have several positions open in our Public Works department. We are looking for a Public Works Laborer, Water Plant Operator, Water & Sewer Plant Manager. Also looking for individuals interested in law enforcement. We have one new opening in our Community Development Department. Check out our jobs pages to find out more!

[Job Openings | Woodland Washington](#)



Sergeant Jim Keller

Public Safety

The city wants to take a moment and recognize Sergeant Jim Keller of the Woodland Police Department. Sergeant Keller is leaving the WPD for new adventures! Sergeant Keller accepted a promotion and will be joining the leadership ranks at the City of Battle Ground Police Department. We are extremely excited for Jim and his family as he moves onto an elevated role at BPD. Jim has not only been a tremendous asset to the WPD, but also to our community. Jim also served on the Woodland Park Board and assisted in youth programs in our area. Employee development is extremely important to me, and as a small city, we just don't have the opportunities others can provide. I am confident though, the training and development Sergeant Keller received while at the WPD played a contributing factor in his selection. Although he will still call Woodland home, we are excited for him as he furthers himself professionally. Good luck Jim!

Lewis River Apartments

Community Development

UPDATE: I informed you about a meeting between my office and the developers of this property in my last newsletter (9/7/23 Mayor's Message). I believe we have come to a resolution and a compromise! The developers have applied for a code amendment to allow the construction of 86 single family homes on the site. The property's new concept will also create additional open space for the entire community that was not planned for in the apartment proposal. I cannot express how important your participation in the public meetings was, and it was an integral part in discussing this change. The code amendments will be before the planning commission next month. [Parcel # 50650 - Lewis River Apartments](#) | [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 projects you may be interested in! [City Projects](#) | [Woodland Washington](#)



Goerig Park Repairs

Public Works

Goerig Park (Clark County along the Lewis River) is back OPEN! Crews completed normal maintenance and repairs getting the area back to tip-top shape. The city has developed a partnership with Taylor Transport and NW Steelheaders Association to help maintain the facility. [Goerig Park](#) | [Woodland Washington](#)

Make a Difference Day

Public Works

Woodland Make a Difference Day is October 28th! This is your opportunity to get involved in your community. You have the opportunity to help struggling neighbors with minor outdoor repairs and yard clean-up. It is also a chance for you to clean up your parks and streets. If you need service hours or have a volunteer group that would like to sign-up, call the Public Works Office at 360-225-7999.



2024 Budget Season is Here!

City Hall

2024 Budget is in full swing! We are just about ready to deliver the proposed budget to city council on October 2, 2023. The budget once again is conservative and **BALANCED!** This budget is a proposal and city council will have the responsibility to approve the final 2024 budget. The budget includes a number of line items related to annual expenses and obligations. There are two items I am personally excited about!

- We are recommending city council **NOT** take advantage of the 1% property increase available to them by law. This is the second year!
- I have added an additional patrol officer to the budget. This position is the first patrol position added by an administration in 20 years! As you remember, the community voted to add three new positions through property tax a few years ago. The ability to add this new position is a direct result of a conservative approach to the overall budgeting process.

Officer Bolo

Public Safety

Officer Bolo has recovered from his surgery and is back at work! Officer Bolo reached 18 months of age and underwent surgery to prevent baby Bolos from occurring. Office Bolo continues to be a physical connection between law enforcement and our community and is a member of the Woodland PD Wellness Program. Officer Bolo is funded through a grant from the Criminal Justice Training Commission and private donations. If your organization, business, or community group would like a visit from Officer Bolo, please call Lt. Jennifer Ortiz at the WPD.

[Visit our City Calendar for upcoming events!](#)

- October 2, 2023 – City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
- October 5, 2023 – Comp Plan Open House at 6:00PM
- October 16, 2023 – City Council Meeting at 7:00PM
- October 17, 2023 – Public Hearing at 1:00PM
- October 19, 2023 – Planning Commisssion at 7:00PM
- October 28, 2023 – Make a Difference Day