



From the Desk of
Mayor Will Finn

Friday, September 8, 2023

Hello Neighbor!

Hope this message finds you well! The Labor Day weekend did not disappoint and I hope you received some much needed rest.

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

Mayor Will Finn

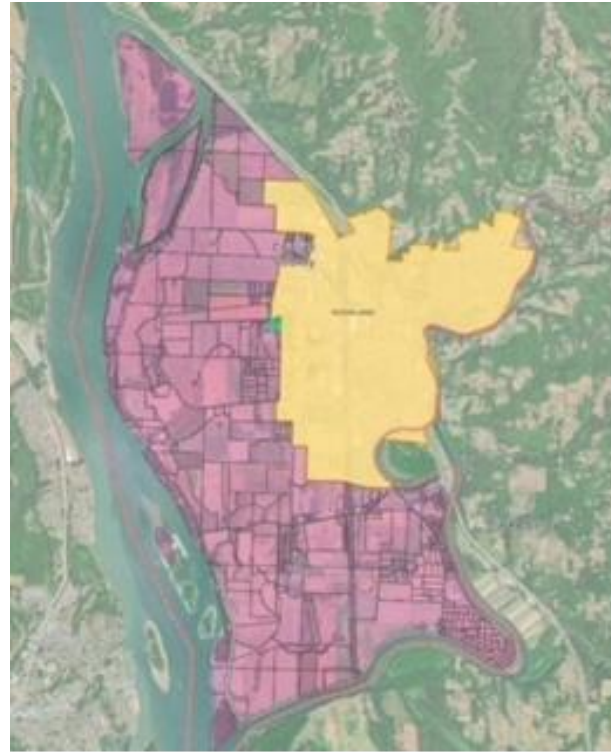
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We are still looking for submissions for 'Yard of the Month'. Once again, we had great participation last month with submissions and voting. September submissions are due by the close of business September 21st. If you want to be recognized, or want 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 Raspberry Park neighborhood! [Yard of the Month | Woodland Washington](#)



Woodland Bottoms Joint Planning Agreement

Community Development

On August 9, 2023, the city hosted the first meeting regarding the Woodland Bottoms Joint Planning Agreement. If you recall, back in June city council approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Cowlitz County. The MOA is a document that states the City of Woodland and Cowlitz County will work together developing a plan for potential future development. As mentioned in other newsletters, the city is responsible for managing growth and the impacts that come with growth for city and county residents (Example is Exit 21). The MOA is also an opportunity for other organizations to be part of the

conversation on how to manage growth effectively. (The Port, School District, Diking District, Planning Commissions, Emergency Services, and the list goes on!). Some have asked for updates regarding this meeting. To date, we are waiting on Cowlitz County to obtain the \$50,000 of planning funds the Port of Woodland has generously offered to help fund the outreach and planning effort. The Bottoms is outside our jurisdiction; however staff stands ready to assist in the effort. More to come! [City of Woodland - Woodland Bottoms JPA | Woodland Washington](#)

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. Check out our jobs pages to find out more!

[Job Openings | Woodland Washington](#)



Lewis River Apartments

Community Development

UPDATE: The developers seeking to build along State Route 503, between Insel and Gun Club Roads, have scheduled a meeting with my office to discuss a change to the project. Currently, the project is approved for 252 apartment dwellings. Many public meetings have been held regarding this project and the developers are looking to scale the project back after discussions. At this time, the discussion will move to potential construction of 80-90 single family homes rather than the approved 252 dwellings (*June 2023*). Your participation in the public meetings was integral in the developer rethinking their project. We will keep you posted as the discussion continues! [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 currently CLOSED until September 15th. The closure will allow crews to complete normal maintenance and repairs. When I took office in 2016, the park had been closed and fell into a sad state. The property was donated to the city by the Goerig family and was once a thriving location with access to the Lewis River. We made it a priority to get it back open to the public so the property could be used as intended! The city has developed a partnership with Taylor Trucking and NW Steelheaders Association to help maintain the

facility. [Goerig Park | Woodland Washington](#)

West Scott and Guild Road Construction

Public Works

West Scott and Guild Road work continues with the full depth reclamation, new sidewalks, ADA accessibility ramps, drainage improvements, etc. You can track the progress and road closure sections on our website. Please pay attention to the road closures and don't drive on private property. We have recently had to hire the Police Department and Pay for extra flagging as citizens are not following the rules. This adds cost to your projects. Please follow the detours for this limited time of inconvenience for a new road. Remember these are grant funded projects using less than 10% of your tax dollars!

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.



EAT FOR HEAT fundraiser is underway!

This event is hosted by *Cowlitz County PUD* and supports the *Warm Neighbor Fund*. The event is an opportunity to help your neighbors who struggle with power utility bills during winter months. You can purchase a meal kit for two that has been 100% locally procured. Once purchased, the kits can be picked-up at a local location on September 14th. For information: [Eat for Heat - Meal Kits for Two Tickets, Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

I-5 Northbound Bridge Work

WSDOT will be doing repairs to the I-5 Northbound North Fork Lewis River Bridge. Construction will begin TONIGHT at 8:00 PM! There will be significant delays during peak travel times. [I-5 NB/SB North Fork Lewis River Bridge - Bridge Deck Repair & Overlay | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#)

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

September 7, 2023 – Comp Plan Open House at 6:00PM
September 18, 2023 – City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM
September 21, 2023 – Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM
October 2, 2023 – City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

The Woodland Civic Center

City Hall

On Tuesday, September 5th, City Council awarded a construction contract to Colf Construction to build a facility at the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Goerig Street. The new facility falls in-line with the goals/vision set in the 2016-2036 Comprehensive Plan. That plan was developed with public participation and enacted by city council. An amendment was done in 2018. This new facility will be called The Woodland Civic Center, will have a meeting space, exterior restrooms, dog relief area, outdoor seating, and will become the Woodland trailhead for the Six Rivers Trail System in Cowlitz County. The trail is an effort to connect to all communities in Cowlitz County. Construction on the facility will begin this year and will be completed in the spring/summer of 2024.

[2019_comp_plan_with_amendments_final.pdf \(woodland.wa.us\)](#)

Code Enforcement

City Hall

As of August 31st, the illegal business located along Lewis River Road has closed. This closure comes after code enforcement complaints from citizens started the process to enforce Woodland Municipal Code (*WMC*) (*January 2022*). There still appears to be confusion as to “why” the code enforcement was used to close the business. **ANY** business that operates inside city limits needs to be properly licensed (*state and city*), located in the correct zone, and follow the WMC. This business was **NOT** properly licensed for operation inside the city limits contrary to the message coming from the owner(s). My job as mayor requires me to follow the regulations and polices set by city council and outlined in the WMC. I am not able to arbitrarily enforce my own rules and regulations. Because this business was licensed by the State of Washington does not mean operation is possible. The WMC still needs to be followed, just as all the other businesses in the city have done. There is a process in place for ANY business, including this one, to petition city council to change the WMC to allow a particular operation that is not currently allowed. That information has been passed along to the business owner. [Appeal Hearing - 04 Jan 2022 - Agenda - Pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#) / [Search | Woodland, WA | Municode Library](#)