



CITY OF SELAH

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Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

August 2025

Hello Selah from the desk of Mayor Roger Bell. We have a truly exciting year in progress.

Wow, a busy month for the “Dog Days of Summer”! We started out with the Fire Department hosting an open forum in the park on how to better safeguard your property and home from potential fires. This was in response to our recent hillside fire. Next up was National Night Out at Wixson Park with lots of new displays and activities, from a model jet that you could sit in from the Civil Air Patrol; a stolen show at the dunk tank with Deputy Fire Chief Scott Willis dressed as Big Bird; to a demonstration of the Jaws of Life to cut up what remained of the smashed-up vehicle. If you missed this, be sure and put it on your schedule for next year on the first Tuesday in August.

I want to say thank you to everyone for your patience as the multiple improvements were made on 3rd Avenue, Fremont, 1st Avenue, and Orchard. These construction projects were 90% complete in time for school starting up again. The final touches will be done soon, and we will have safer streets and sidewalks.

The first Council Meeting included a study session on peddlers, mobile vendors, and special event permitting processes. We held a Public Hearing on the 2025-2031 Selah Transit Development Plan and the 2024 annual report. The Council passed two resolutions to declare the Well #6 generator project complete and one authorizing the purchase of two shade sails for Volunteer Park. They also passed an emergency ordinance in response to unpermitted vendors setting up at various locations around the City.

At the 2nd Council Meeting, they approved resolutions to renew the City's software license with SmartGov; to adopt the Transit Development Plan; signing a contract for annual crack sealing at multiple locations; approval of signing a Well #9 drilling contract; approval to purchase new computers and related equipment to replace the ones that will be outdated in October; and lastly, approval of a contract for preliminary design on a potential new municipal building to house Police, Court, and City Hall. A discussion was also held on moving the November 11th meeting to November 12th due to the conflict with Veterans Day.

Looking ahead, again this year I will be issuing a proclamation for Mental Health Awareness during the month of September. **This year we will dedicate a “Wind Phone” at Playland Park as a real, physical measure of the ongoing need for addressing mental health within Selah. See the attachment for information on a Wind Phone. Join us at 6:00 PM on September 10th for the dedication at the park.**

I am in the office almost every day and willing to meet with citizens to discuss your concerns and ideas for improving Selah.

That is all for this month. Enjoy the nice weather we are experiencing. I look forward to giving my next month's update.

If you wish to be added or removed from the Mayor's Monthly email, please send a message to michelle.damron@selahwa.gov.

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST

WIND PHONE DEDICATION



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 | 6:00PM
PLAYLAND RIVERSIDE PARK
19 GOLF COURSE RD SELAH WA 98942

This heartfelt addition to the City of Selah offers a quiet place to speak the words you wish you could share.
All are welcome to attend this special moment of peace, memory, and community.

The Wind Telephone

When 19,000 people swept out to sea, a young man bought an old phone booth and placed it in his Japanese garden. How do we stay connected to the dead? How do we grieve? We play piano and pray into the night. We hear them in the silence as a tear traces a cheek and the crickets and frogs send up their racket to the moon. We might say little, or nothing. Farmers and fishermen calling wives, mothers, daughters, sons, fathers, the children and parents, all gone. The dial tone is silent and the ringing reaches up to the clouds: "Hello, if you're out there, please listen to me. Please, be okay. Please: be okay. Without all of you, it's meaningless. Have a good trip. Good luck." As if they could hear them and would be home in time for supper.

– STUART GUNTER



"Because my thoughts could not be relayed over a regular phone line, I wanted them to be carried on the wind."

– ITARU SASAKI



From Japan to the world

Wind phones, while physical in form, hold a deeply spiritual significance. Originating from Japan, these disconnected phones offer a unique way to remain connected to departed loved ones.

Itaru Sasaki, a garden designer, conceived the first wind phone in 2010 as a means to cope with the loss of his cousin. "Because my thoughts could not be relayed over a regular phone line, I wanted them to be carried on the wind," he expressed.

Opened to the public in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that claimed over 15,000 lives in 2011, Sasaki's wind phone received over 30,000 visitors, serving as a conduit for solace and remembrance. These poignant instruments have since sprouted up across the world, finding homes in public parks and front lawns alike.