



CITY OF SELAH

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Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

April 2025

Hello Selah Community, and here's this month's news! This is a year filled with great possibilities.

The week of our first Council Meeting this month, I took a vacation to the Oregon Coast. In my absence, Mayor Pro Tempore Mike Costello filled in. During that meeting, the Council approved resolutions for an agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology pertaining to the Waste Water Treatment Plant project; a resolution approving electrical work at Well 6; and one with HLA Engineering for services on the 3rd Street improvements project.

At the second meeting, Council approved an amendment to the Civic Center improvements project. They declared as surplus some pumps, valves, motors, and filters along with an old vehicle and authorized their sale/disposition. The Council authorized staff to withdraw from a previously approved "Missing Middle Housing Grant."

Continuing my program of recognition, I presented "Selah Community Pride Awards" to the entire Selah High School Dance and Drill Team, including coaches and supporting staff. The recognition was for being selected Academic State Champions by the WIAA for 2A schools with an average GPA of 3.83 for the team. Proving once again that the Selah School District not only has great athletes but also high scholastic achievers in the classroom. They also placed 4th in their athletic competition.

Community Days is fast approaching, and it will be returning to Wixson Park with all of its shade and landscaping. Please note that traffic will be impacted during that week. Traffic will be one-way westbound on Selah Ave, and the parking lot adjacent to the pool will be closed. Parking is available at the Civic Center and the lot on Naches Avenue. Please be respectful and do not block driveways of residents in the area.

Our Legislative Committee continues to work on securing Selah's fair share of state and federal dollars through meetings and lobbying efforts with agencies and legislators. Multiple conversations are ongoing with our legislators, Senator Nikki Torres, Representatives Chris Corry and Jeremie Dufault, who all remain extremely supportive of the needs of Selah. We have also remained in touch with Senator Curtis King, who, while not our District 15 Senator, remains very supportive of all Eastern Washington. We have an excellent team in Olympia. We were just informed that a couple of our funding requests are still alive in the state budget process and hope to confirm that we have secured a couple of new grants within the next few days. In addition, I traveled to Washington, D.C., the last week of the month to ask for federal support for Selah's needs. I hope to have some good news to report in the near future as a result of this trip.

Councilmember Kevin Wickenhagen has resigned to pursue personal opportunities. We interviewed three excellent candidates to replace him on the Council at the Council Meeting April

22nd, and the Councilmembers voted to appoint Melissa Maxwell to fill his seat during the rest of his term in office, which ends December 31st this year.

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. 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

The attached photos were taken in Wixson Park showing participants in the annual Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you, Governor Tammy Allen and all the Lions Club members and friends, for the thousands of eggs given out to the kids of the area and the special touch of having animals available to embrace healing through connections made with small children. Way to go, Lions Club.

Speaking of the Lions, I had the privilege of welcoming their District Convention attendees to Selah on Saturday, April 26th. They are truly a top-notch community service organization all around the world. You might want to consider joining as a member and contributing to their great service network right here in Selah.



