

# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

July 2024

Hello Selah Community! Here are the highlights from July for the City of Selah.

The record heat wave started the month out with some serious health concerns. Please be safe and mindful of the signs from the effect of high temperatures for yourself and family. It would also be a good idea to periodically check on your neighbors; especially the elderly. After all, this is one of the reasons we love Selah; the fact that we care about each other.

A big shout out goes to the Selah Downtown Association for their work in putting on the grand old Fourth of July Celebration including fun activities for kids and adults; food, beverage and craft vendors. And the grand finale fireworks show. Great Job!

Selah Community Pride Awards went to the Selah-Naches Food Bank volunteer board members and longtime volunteer Ellen Overby and late husband Don. They have overseen the completion of their new facility behind the Grocery Outlet store. In the first few months of operation they have served thousands of people in the area providing a high measure of food security within the community. Those receiving certificates and a medallion were: Marcie Ehlig, Gina Franklin Bill Harris, Kevin Jorgensen (post-humous presentation to wife Tammy), Sarah Judd, Stephanie Morford, Dave Smeback, Mark Soptich, Lonnie Welch, Jason Williams and Ellen Overby. They are truly making a difference for families of the area.

Council member Michael Costello was presented with a Certificate of Municipal Leadership award from the AWC statewide organization for having completed 30 hours of study in 5 key areas of leadership. Congratulations Mike, you are one of only 2 current Councilmembers to have received such designation.

City Council action at the first meeting included approving joining a group of other cities in the county for stormwater permit activities; began the process of updating the City's employee handbook; and authorized a modification to the City Attorney's contract to remove the requirement to vote on it every year for severance provisions.

The 2025 budget season kicked off this month to start organizing that process in each of our departments. Right now, it looks like we will be having open public hearings on budget the first week in November. You will hear more as we process along.

I have started a process to track all grant applications the City is applying for along with the results. This will allow us to know what works and what does not and assist us in future applications. At this point, the information is captured many times only by departments.

In partnership with the Red Cross, the City has agreed to open the Civic Center to those rural neighbors impacted by the fire evacuate now orders. The Red Cross will be providing services from there. It's great to once again help out in an emergency. On the note of fires, a huge

thank you to all of our firefighters for their efforts in this highly unusual fire season of protecting property and life for all of us by placing themselves in harm's way multiple times.

At the second Council meeting in July, Community Pride Awards were given to the team of managers at the Selah Aquatics Center, most of whom are teenagers working their first job and given leadership experience that will prepare them for future roles in community involvement. The group included senior staff of Aimee Ozanich, Jessica Cavanaugh and Braelyn Carter. The others were Krysten Callahan, Juan DeDios Ramirez, Genesis Espinoza-Coleman, Nathan Oliphant, Elise Ozanich, Otis Peace, Katie Ramos, Caitlin Strand, Sara Villa and Kiaqh Weiss. Take a moment to congratulate them next time you visit the pool.

Eric Neumeyer was recognized for his years of service as a Chaplin for first responders by Interim Police Chief, Dustin Soptich. Eric is passing the torch on Chaplin duties; but will remain as our Wastewater Treatment Plant manager.

Former Fire Chief Gary Hanna was announced as the newest Civil Service Commission member with the resignation of John Tierney due to having moved out of the area.

The Council approved the purchase of a new generator to make sure our water supply can remain deliverable during power or maintenance episodes.

National Night Out is fast approaching. Bring the whole family out to Wixson Park for free hotdogs, chips, and cool drinks. It's a fun time for everyone with many displays, a dunk tank, games, and a helicopter landing in the middle of the park. There will also be plenty of law enforcement, fire department, and military vehicles for you to check out. All of this happens on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

That is the same day your primary ballots are due; so be sure and vote prior to heading down to Wixson because we have many choices for us to determine for the general election. The Selah Aquatics Center also has a vary cheap M & O Levy to be decided. SO, VOTE. Let's show the rest of the County that Selah residents take their voting rights serious by having record numbers turn out to vote. Don't forget we have a voters drop box in front of City Hall.

**That's all folks for this month.**

Enjoy your summer and plan safe and fun activities that enrich your life and those close to you. This will continue to make for a thriving community, one that you will always be proud to call home.

**If you wish to be added or removed from the Mayor's Monthly email please send a message to [michelle.damron@selahwa.gov](mailto:michelle.damron@selahwa.gov).**

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor