

# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

March 2025

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

First on this month's report is that City Administrator, Rich Huebner, and the City have mutually agreed to part ways. I will be serving as interim City Administrator

At the first Council meeting our two newest Police Officers, Branden Calahan and Brandon Jewett were recognized for having completed the State Police Academy and are ready to start their regular shifts serving the community. The Council also passed several resolutions including renewing our agreement to participate with the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management.; Updating the City's purchasing and contracting policy; hiring of HLA to provide engineering Services for the Orchard Avenue water main replacement; and an ordinance updating the Selah Municipal Code to the latest International Code standards. They also held a closed-record public hearing on the Selah Vista Plat Phases 2, 3, and 4 along with an accompanying resolution approving it. Lastly for that meeting they passed an Ordinance repealing the "Admission Tax" as listed in SMC Chapter 4.30.

At the second Council meeting we received the annual report from Yakima Valley Council of Governments from their Executive Director, Christine Wickenhagen. I read an official Proclamation declaring the month of April 2025 as "Selah Youth Service Month", encouraging all citizens to find ways to engage with youth throughout the month in community service with a special emphasis on the 25<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

The Council passed resolutions authorizing the budgeted purchase of 2 new police vehicles and to surplus of 1 fire vehicle. They held a closed public hearing on Eagle Ridge Preliminary Plat Phase 2, 2a, 3, and 4 along with the accompanying resolution of approval.

Continuing my program of recognition, I presented "Selah Community Pride Awards" to the entire boys' and girls' basketball teams including coaches and supporting staffs. The recognition was for being selected Academic State Champions by the WIAA for 2A schools with an average GPA of 3.66 for the boy's team and 3.92 for the girl's team. Proving the Selah School District not only has great athletes; but also, high scholastic achievers in the classroom.

Improvements to the Civic Center are completed and we held an open house on the 31<sup>st</sup> to show off this phase of work that updated for ADA accessibilities. Check it out next time you are in the area. The final phase of construction will move forward as soon as funding is secured. While discussing the Civic Center, the base for the flagpole donated by the American Legion through their fundraising efforts has been poured and the pole has now been installed with "old glory" flying in the wind. Thank you to everyone that has made this possible and especially to Selah's American Legion Members.

Kudo's to the Selah Down town Association for pushing for completion of the new art display on 1st Ave. You might have noticed the colorful 98942 display between Burger Ranch and the old Wells Fargo building. Way to go SDA!

Community Days is fast approaching and it will be returning to Wixson Park with all of its shade and landscaping. Please note below that there are two photos of how traffic will be impacted during that week. Traffic will be one way west bound 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.

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 Jeremy Default 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 will be traveling to Washington DC later this month to ask for federal support for Selah's needs.

Councilmember Kevin Wickenhagen has resigned to pursue personal opportunities. We are currently accepting applications until April 18<sup>th</sup> for those interested in being appointed to his position. Thanks for your service Kevin and best wishes.

The City Council Workshop (retreat) was held March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Selah School District Administration Office on West Naches Ave. It ran from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We started out by reviewing the top three goals of the Council, New Police Station, Refreshed Civic Center and improved community engagement. We then reviewed the Council's committed values, being engaged, honest, forward-thinking, and fiscally responsible in representing our community. The day continued with department reports and discussions on how each can contribute to achieving our goals and maintaining our values.

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](mailto:michelle.damron@selahwa.gov)**

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor

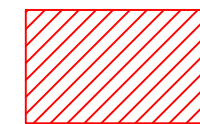
The next two pages are photos of Wixson Park showing closures during Community Days. For comparison the blurred one is a satellite shot and the clear one is shot from one of our new Police Drones. Please plan for these temporary closures and re-direction of traffic.



# Wixson Park Community Days Important Parking and Street Closure Information

Please note that parking on Selah Ave and in the Aquatic Center parking lot will be unavailable during Community Days.

The north half of Selah Ave will be closed during Community Days as well. Traffic will be redirected to a one-way direction heading west on Selah Ave.

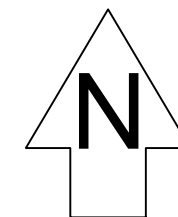


No Parking Zone



One-Way Traffic

3/31/2025

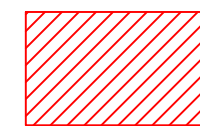




# **Wixson Park Community Days Important Parking and Street Closure Information**

Please note that parking on Selah Ave and in the Aquatic Center parking lot will be unavailable during Community Days.

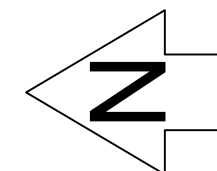
The north half of Selah Ave will be closed during Community Days as well. Traffic will be redirected to a one-way direction heading west on Selah Ave.



No Parking Zone



One-Way Traffic



3/31/2025

