



Your City

March-April 2010

City Hall

Calendar

City Council every 2nd & 4th Tuesday•7:00 p.m. • City Hall

Planning Commission every 2nd Thursday•6:30 p.m. •City Hall

Civil Service Commission every 3rd Wednesday• 5:15 p.m. •City Hall

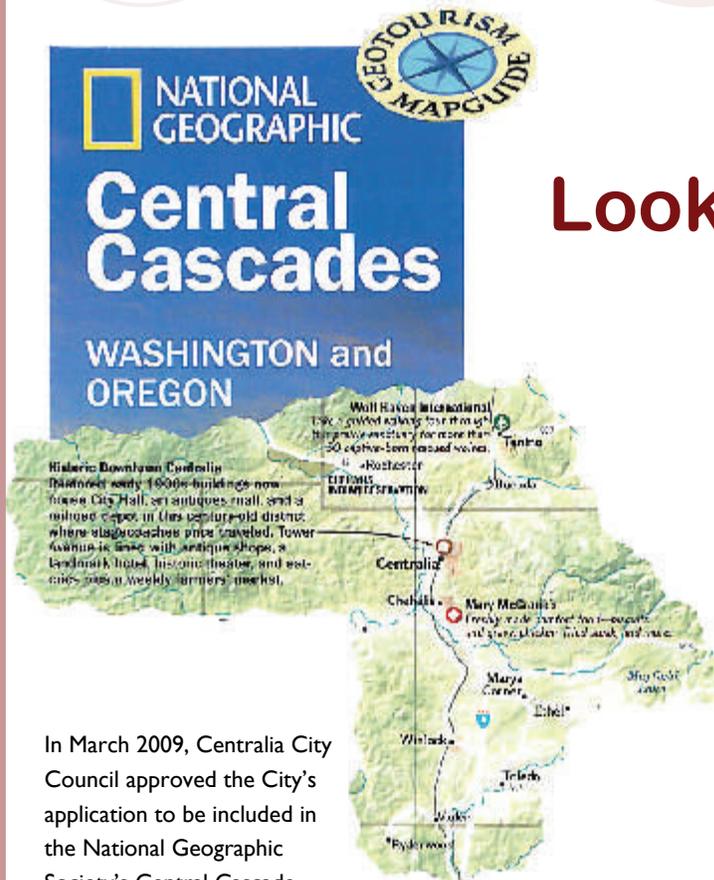
Centralia Park Advisory Board every 2nd Monday• 5:00 p.m. •Parks Office

Historic Preservation Commission every 2nd Monday•6:00 p.m. •City Hall

Centralia Landfill Closure Group as needed• Centralia Public Works Office

Lewis County Solid Waste Disposal District No. 1 every 4th Monday•1:30 p.m. •Lewis County Board of County Commissioners Office

Library Advisory Board every 1st Tuesday (except July & August)•6:00 p.m. • Centralia Library



Look at us!

Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

Geotourists are a market of about 55.1 million travelers who seek authentic experiences, care about the protection and presentation of the places they visit, and are willing to spend more money to achieve these goals. Average ages range from 43-55 years, average household incomes are high with 38-46% earning more than \$75,000 annually, average number of leisure trips taken each year is 4 or more, and education levels are also high.

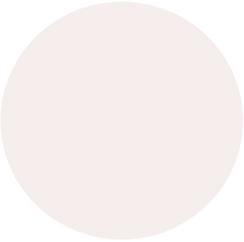
We look forward to welcoming many new visitors to Centralia!

In March 2009, Centralia City Council approved the City's application to be included in the National Geographic Society's Central Cascade GeoTourism MapGuide Project. The City is proud to announce that it was successful, and Historic Downtown Centralia is featured on the map.

This is a notable accomplishment since over 1,200 businesses and attractions were nominated and only 213 were selected for the map.

The map will be included in the West Coast edition of the May/June issue of *National Geographic Traveler* magazine as well as through www.TheCentralCascades.com.

Your City



Protect Your Vehicle and Property

Since January 1st of this year, the Centralia Police Department has received more than 120 reports of car prowls in our community. While arrests of three individuals solved about 30 of those cases, the vehicle break-ins and thefts continue. Almost two-thirds of these vehicle prowls were to unlocked vehicles, and many of the associated thefts from those cars were items in plain sight.

In addition, the City has been victimized by a continuing rash of burglaries to garages and storage sheds, with more than 41 cases reported. Tools, construction supplies and materials, along with lawn care items seem to be high on the thieves' lists.

The police need your help in making our community a safe place to live, work, and play. Here are some tips to better protect your vehicle and property:

- Don't leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Park your car in a garage or well lit area.
- Do not use your car as a storeroom for property.
- Keep vehicle accessory items (GPS, CD's etc.) out of sight.
- Keep an inventory (including serial numbers) of vehicle accessories kept in your car.
- Keep your garages and sheds locked and don't leave valuable tools and equipment in the beds of pickup trucks.
- Be a good neighbor, and report suspicious activity to your police department.



“Many a man is saved from being a thief by finding everything locked up.”

Edgar Watson Howe

Thank you!

Aggressive Panhandling Outlawed

In February 2010, the Centralia City Council adopted a new section to the Centralia Municipal Code called “Pedestrian Interference”. This ordinance will become law the first week of March 2010.

The intent of this new ordinance is to protect the health, peace and welfare of the citizens of Centralia by restricting the level of panhandling so it does not intimidate or unduly interfere with persons.

The Centralia Police Department will enforce the ordinance. Residents and visitors are encouraged to call the police non-emergency telephone number (740-1105) and report any panhandling which makes them feel intimidated or fearful.

The entire ordinance is available on the City's web page www.centralia.com or a copy is available from the Centralia City Clerk (330-7670).



Questions should be directed to the Centralia Police Department at 330-7680.

Are You Planning a Charity Car Wash



- Car wash runoff is highly toxic to fish and other aquatic life and is one of the reasons that our streams are not as healthy as they should be.

Car Wash Facts

- Sending all that oily, soapy water down the storm drain is not only harmful to aquatic life, it is a violation of local, state and federal pollution laws.



- Unlike the sanitary sewer system, water that runs into storm drains goes directly to our lakes, streams, and wetlands with little or no treatment.

The City of Centralia Offers Fish Friendly Car Wash Alternative

Please consider this method when planning your next car wash:



Parking Lot Charity Car Washes

While not the preferred choice, parking lot car washes can still be environmentally friendly. The City has special kits available that pump wash water into the sanitary sewer system, keeping contaminants out of local surface waters. All Centralia charities and groups may borrow these kits, at no charge, from the Stormwater Department.

To check out a parking lot car wash kit, please call:

Kim Ashmore at (360) 330-7512





The City of Centralia Newsletter

"Your City" is published six times per year as a public service to the citizens of Centralia.

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"Your City"
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CENTRALIA.COM

March

- 6 Lady Tigers Fastpitch Fundamentals Clinic
- 12 Team entry deadline for Twin Cities Softball League (men's slowpitch)
- 13 Shamrock Run 
- 20 6th Graders Night Out

April

- 24 6th Graders Night Out



March 29 through April 23•Borst Park softball practice field reservations open for adult slowpitch softball and youth fastpitch softball. Please call 330-7688 to reserve a field.

CITY OF CENTRALIA INFORMATION

City Manager•330-7674

City Clerk•330-7670

City Attorney•330-7675

Community Development•330-7662

Customer Service Center (Utility Bill Payments)•330-7657

Economic Development•330-7820

Engineering•330-7512

Personnel•330-7672

Building Official/Inspector•330-7664

Building Inspection Request Line•330-7663

Police Business•330-7681

Fire Business•330-7681

Finance Department•330-7659

Public Works (Streets, Light, Water, Wastewater, Stormwater)•330-7512

Parks Department•330-7688

Municipal Court•330-7667

All Area Code 360



2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The 2010 Census and the American Community Survey

America is Changing, and so is the Census

One of the most significant changes in modern census history will occur in 2010 — for the first time since 1930, all addresses in the U.S. will receive a census short form.

In recent censuses, most addresses received one of two forms: either the short form, which focused on the population count and demographics; or the long form, which included additional questions on socioeconomic

and housing characteristics. Nationwide, about one-in-six addresses in 2000 received the long form. Together, the two parts of the decennial census showed not only the number of people living in America but also the way we live: education, housing, jobs and more. This information will still be part of the decennial census, but it will be collected on a continuing basis as part of the American Community Survey.

Although the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program provides estimates of

population and housing in the years between censuses, there were no updates on the estimates for the long form's characteristics data. Our nation is not static, however, and communities need current data to make informed decisions.

After a decade of testing and development, the Census Bureau launched the American Community Survey (ACS) in January 2005. The ACS is officially part of the decennial census and includes essentially the same questions as the long form. But rather than once a

decade, the ACS is sent to a rolling sample of addresses every month, every year, throughout the nation. The new survey will yield current annual data for all geographic areas of the country in the form of single- or multiyear estimates.

For more information about the American Community Survey, please visit the Census Bureau Web page at www.census.gov/acs.