



Your City

January-February 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

Yelm Hydroelectric Plant

The City's 12-megawatt Yelm Hydroelectric Plant produces low cost hydroelectric power for the citizens of Centralia.

Operations began in 1930 with two generators and it is the City's only generating project. The facility was expanded in 1955 with the addition of a third, larger generator. Today, the Yelm Hydro-electric Project serves 2,400 homes in the City and supplies approximately 20% of the City's electrical demands.

The Yelm project consist of a diversion dam located on the Nisqually River near the town of McKenna, a 9-mile long power canal that crosses the prairie north of Yelm, and the Power House located two miles west of Yelm. The project is staffed with nine employees.

Every year, the canal is emptied and the plant is shut down to accomplish necessary maintenance work. This is normally done in the fall when the river is low and there is less water available for generation. A 5-week maintenance outage was completed in August/ September 2009. Several tasks were completed, including:



- The removal of trash which included bicycles, computers, car parts and car bodies from the nine-mile long power canal.
- Removal of approximately 70 cubic yards of silt from the forebay area.
- Locating and repairing leaks along the canal.
- Automation of several valves that are involved with filling and draining the plant's two 8-foot diameter penstocks. These penstocks carry the water from the canal forebay to the plant's three generators.
- A 220-foot long section of the canal which has been prone to seepage was lined with a 50-mil PVC liner. This part of the improvements required design review and approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Today, with a full canal, the liner is functioning as designed.

The City also used this opportunity to improve the facility's reliability. Improvements included:

- Installation of 40 new power poles along the 29-mile 69,000-volt transmission line that carries the power from Yelm to Centralia.
- Installation of a new 275 kilowatt standby diesel generator.



Welcome!

Your City

Edna Fund

Council Position
No. 2 at Large



Hello Citizens of Centralia!

I'm looking forward to working diligently and representing you on the City Council. As a local historian, I plan to "learn from the past to plan for the future." Visit my website, www.EdnaFund.com, for my personal history.

Some of the pressing issues include flood-proofing the City, improving economic development and maintaining a family-friendly City.

I urge you to attend Council meetings as well as watch the proceedings on Channel 3. Visit www.centralia.com to see the City's budget, ordinances, etc.

Have a wonderful 2010, and let's make our dreams come true for Centralia. Let's work together to make it happen!

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Albert Schweitzer

Matthew Trent

Council District
No. 2



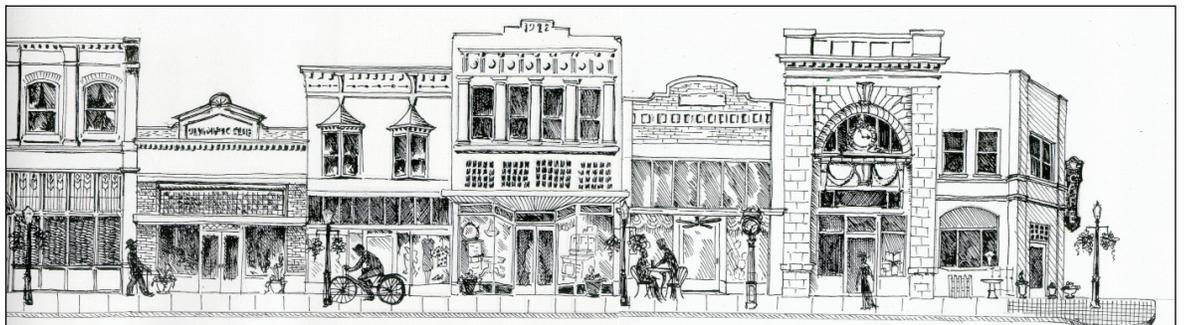
I'm 27 years old and have lived in Centralia since grade school. I graduated from both Centralia High School and Centralia Community College.

I've been married to my wife and best friend, Jenny, for 6 years. We are Christians. We have two boys, Matthew Jr. and Jefferson.

I work as a network engineer in Lewis County's IT department. I enjoy motorcycling and playing guitar in my spare time.

I see the role of government at all levels as recognizing and protecting the rights of people. My vision is a strong and prosperous Centralia where unrestrained people pursue their dreams.

Next Issue: Dan Henderson, Council District No. 3



From the City Manager

January-February 2010

Welcome to 2010, as it seems like only yesterday when we began 2009 in Centralia.



Patrick Sorensen

This is particularly true for me as I prepare to complete my first year in Centralia as City Manager.

It has been a very busy year for both the employees and City Council. We have all had to deal with the challenges of the economic times that we live in. Like those of us who have to live within our own financial means, the City has had to do the same thing. The City Council has been far sighted in its approach to making adjustments to these changed economic circumstances that we live in.

As the economy worsened in 2009, expenditures were reduced very early in the year in order to match projected revenues. This has also been true in developing the 2010 annual operating budget for the City. Because of limited revenues and a desire not to increase

taxes, the City will not be engaged in expanding its programs in a major way or in undertaking any major projects in 2010.

The City Council has worked carefully over the last few years to build up the City's financial reserves in order to better ride out a natural disaster or some other unanticipated event. In "right sizing" or in adjusting the budget to meet the realities of reduced revenues, we have also had to reduce staffing levels within various areas of the City. Likewise, some programs have been reduced or scaled back for 2010. However, in this effort, we have also re-emphasized and prioritized the City's primary priority, which is to protect the public safety and health of our residents.

We go into 2010 knowing that we have very good police protection, safe drinking water, a very good sanitary sewer system, and some of the finest parks and recreation programs available in this region of Washington.

In addition, both the City Council and staff are continuing to work with regional, State, and Federal authorities in

order to protect Centralia from the impacts of flooding events in the future that will likely visit us again. This is a top priority effort on the part of the City Council and City staff. We are better prepared City-wide, even as we continue to work with others outside of the City to help mitigate the potential impacts of future events.

Centralia is very fortunate to have dedicated and caring people to serve on its City Council who set the path forward that we follow. Likewise, we have a very dedicated and creative group of employees who work hard to serve our residents. Centralia is positioned to move forward as a community as we come out of these challenging economic times that we have experienced together.

As always, you are invited to follow the City and its activities at the Council meetings, on Centralia Community Television (Channel 3), or in person, whenever you have a question or a concern. We look forward to the New Year and the challenges ahead of us.

Patrick Sorensen, City Manager



Historic Train Depot

Facilities Available for Special Events

Are you looking for a great place to have a family gathering, birthday party, class reunion or other special event? Your City Parks Department offers facilities at Fort Borst Park and the Centralia Train Depot that you can reserve for your group.

For additional details and reservation information, please visit www.centralia.com or call the Parks & Recreation office at 330-7688.

Centralia Community Television

Broadcasts of the City Council meetings continue on Channel 3 daily at 8 am, Noon, 7 pm and 11 pm (unless pre-empted for special programs such as the basketball games). Educational, cultural and public service programs from Centralia College's Diversity Center are shown following the City Council meetings. Mid-January through mid-April watch a weekly message from Representatives Gary Alexander and Richard DeBolt on topics of local interest in the Olympia legislature. The "Arts Showcase" program is broadcast throughout other day and evening hours.



The City of Centralia Newsletter

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

Writing and Research:

Carol Hamilton•360-330-7674
chamilton@cityofcentralia.com

Send Questions To:

“Your City”
P. O. Box 609
Centralia, WA 98531-0609

WE’RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CENTRALIA.COM

Parks & Recreation Activities

January

- 5-6-7 Pee Wee & Jr. Basketball Begin
- 13-14 Registration for Girls Fastpitch League
- 13-14 Registration for Little League
- 23 6th Graders Night Out

February

- 6 Arts Jamboree
(Registration opens on 1/11/10)

For more information, please call the Parks Office at 330-7688.

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

Winter Driving

Winter weather can mean poor driving conditions, including black ice, ice and snow on our roadways. Your City makes every effort to keep roads passable with a fleet of sanding and snow removal equipment, including two sanders, one snowplow mounted on a 10-yard dump truck, and a motor grader converted to plow snow. In extreme conditions, the Street crew can spread liquid de-icer using a tanker truck.

Centralia, with over 70 miles of roads, has a priority plan for removing snow and ice from the streets. Priority is given to viaducts, bridges, hills, signaled intersections, and the roadway

leading to the hospital. Sanding and snow plowing in other parts of the City are done as needed, based on the availability of manpower and equipment.

What can you do to help? If winter weather conditions exist with ice and snow on the roadways, don't drive if you don't have to. If you must drive, slow down! Give the snowplows and sanders plenty of room to operate. Sanders spread gravel and, if you travel too close, your car could be pelted with rock. Snowplows make wide turns so be aware



and make sure the operators can see you if you pass or travel next to the machinery.

Driving on ice and snow can be a harrowing experience. With patience and the knowledge that the City's Street Department is making every effort to keep the roads passable, you will be able to travel throughout the City safely.